

...AND WHILE OFFICIALS ARE TELLING US THIS WAS THE RESULT OF SOME SORT OF GAS LEAK, STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT MOPERVILLE SOUTH ARE DISPUTING THE CLAIM, SAYING WHAT THEY EXPERIENCED *MUST* HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE.



EVERY DOOR WAS LOCKED, EVEN ONES WITHOUT LOCKS. I LOOKED UNDER THE DOOR TO SEE IF SOMETHING WAS JAMMED, AND THERE WAS THIS STRANGE GLOW...



PLEASE DON'T BECOME THE NEXT ROSWELL PLEASE DON'T BECOME THE NEXT ROSWELL PLEASE...

ALRIGHT, ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED. TIME TO LET IT SINK IN THAT MY DAUGHTER IS IN A HOSPITAL AND GO SEE HER.



NANASE!





HELLO, MS. POMPOMS.

SIGH HERE TO GIVE ME MY DETENTION?

ACTUALLY, NO. I WAS DREADING TELLING YOU THIS, BUT GIVEN THE ODD EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AT OUR NEIGHBOR SCHOOL AND MY AWARENESS THAT YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO ATTEND IT, I'M PLEASED TO HAVE "GOOD NEWS".

GOOD NEWS?

WELL, NOT IN MY OPINION, BUT CERTAINLY IN YOURS. THE SCHOOL RECEIVED OVER **FOUR HUNDRED VOICEMAILS** LAST NIGHT AFTER A NEWS BROADCAST ABOUT THE UNIFORMS. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO LIFT THE DRESS CODE.

YOU'RE KIDDING. I ONLY WANTED TO MAKE THE POLICY LESS SEXIST, BUT... I DID IT? IT'S OVER?

YES. HUNDREDS OF VOICEMAILS WITH PEOPLE COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW MUCH MORE LAUNDRY THE UNIFORMS HAVE RESULTED IN MADE QUITE AN IMPACT.

I--WHAT? LAUNDRY?

ANYWAY, I'LL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCING IT TOMORROW. HAVE A GOOD REST OF THE DAY.

OH, YES. EVERY LAST VOICEMAIL. I'M AFRAID I HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT ASPECT OF IT. THE MISSUS USUALLY TAKES CARE OF THE LAUNDRY.

LAUNDRY?

MEANWHILE, ??????



...THIS INCIDENT IS RECEIVING NATIONWIDE COVERAGE. INITIAL FEEDBACK IS THAT THE SKEPTICS ARE SKEPTICAL OF OUR EXPLANATION, AND ALL EVIDENCE PRIOR TO THAT WIZARD TURNING TO STONE IS THAT YOU ATTACKED HIM IN DISREGARD OF PROPER PROCEDURE.

I HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR MY ATTACK, BUT PEOPLE WILL DISMISS ANY SUPERNATURAL EXPLANATIONS FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH TIME.



LIKELY SO, BUT THE NATION'S EYES ARE ON MOPERVILLE RIGHT NOW. IF SO MUCH AS A SUPERNATURAL PIN DROPS, THAT CITY'S GOING TO TURN INTO A HOTSPOT FOR CONSPIRACY THEORISTS AND SUPERNATURAL NUT JOBS!

EDWARD, YOUR SUPERNATURAL AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL CONNECTIONS MAKE YOU INVALUABLE, BUT I'VE SUSPECTED FOR A WHILE NOW THAT YOU ALSO HAVE *TOO MUCH* OF A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS AROUND HERE.

YOUR LOSS OF CONTROL TODAY CONFIRMS IT.



AS OF THIS MOMENT, YOU ARE NO LONGER HEAD OF THE PARANORMAL DIVISION AND WILL NOT TAKE PART IN INVESTIGATIONS.



YOU'RE FIRING ME?!

OH NO, NOTHING OF THE SORT. YOU HAVE TOO MANY IMPORTANT FRIENDS WHO WOULD RAISE HELL, MYSELF INCLUDED. NO, I'M DOING THE BEST THING I CAN DO FOR EVERYONE, ED. I'M PROMOTING YOU TO HEAD OF PARANORMAL DIPLOMACY.



THERE IS NO SUCH POSITION.



THERE IS NOW.

LIVE



51

LINE

RHODA



Ongoing Coverage Of Incident Possible

4

WHAT THE...?



Drinking Coverage Of Incident Possible gas leak and invasion by nut case

4

AEH

HEH

AREM

Ongoing Coverage Of Incident
Possible gas leak and invasion by nut case

4

НА НА НА НА НА НА НА

LIVE



Ongoing Coverage Of Incident
Possible gas leak and invasion by nut case

4

HA

BZZZT

تاریخ: ۱۳۸۵/۰۵/۰۵
محل: تهران، خیابان ولیعصر، پلاک ۱۲۳



FSM

FSHSN

WHAT
THE HELL WAS
THAT?!

LOVE



Ongoing Coverage Of Incident
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[illegible]

SISTER A - THE END

HELLO, EVERYONE! I'M
AMANDA, MAD SCIENTIST
EXTRAORDINAIRE!

AND I'M
LISA, ATTORNEY
EXTRAORDINAIRE!

ONCE AGAIN, A LONG STORY ARC HAS COME
TO AN END, AND IT'S UP TO ME AND LISA TO
ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS!

WELL, *SOME*
OF THEM.

Does Amanda
know Lisa has the
hots for her?

IN ADDITION TO THE *WACKY FUN* OF Q&A, I
BELIEVE I HAVE *FINALLY* PERFECTED A WAY TO
MAKE MY CLOTHES SHRINK AT A ONE-TO-ONE
RATIO TO ME WITH NEW AND IMPROVED SHRINK
SODA! WE'LL BE MONITORING MY SHRINKING
AS WE ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY
QUESTIONS. IF I MAY BE *LAWYER-LIKE* FOR A
MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE WILL NOT BE ANSWERING
QUESTIONS THAT AMOUNT TO MAJOR SPOILERS.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL NOT BE ANSWERING
WHAT HAS BECOME OF GREG'S MARTIAL ARTS
DOJO, OR WHAT *NEW SPELLS* ELLEN WILL GET.
FOR THINGS LIKE THAT, PLEASE WAIT AND SEE.

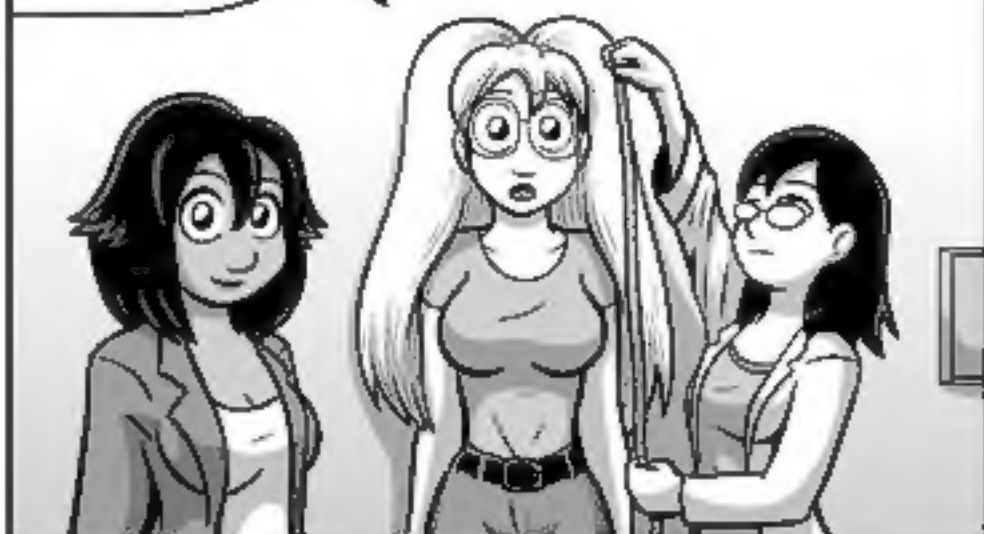
SO WITH THAT IN MIND, SEND IN YOUR
QUESTIONS, AND WE'LL ANSWER WHAT
WE CAN!

I HAVE A
QUESTION.

I DON'T MIND RECORDING THIS DATA FOR YOU GIVEN
YOUR SHRINKING, BUT WOULDN'T IT MAKE MORE SENSE
TO *ELIMINATE* THE SHRINKING FROM THE SODA RATHER
THAN SIMPLY MAKING IT *LESS INCONVENIENT*?

YES, CHIKA, BUT THEN WE'D HAVE
TO THINK UP A NEW NAME FOR IT.

OUR FIRST QUESTION IS ONE THAT HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN CLARIFIED IN VARIOUS PLACES OUTSIDE OF THE STORY, BUT GIVEN HOW OFTEN IT IS STILL ASKED, WE'RE STILL GOING TO ANSWER IT HERE: "HOW EXACTLY ARE TEDD VERRES AND NANASE KITSUNE RELATED?"



TEDD'S MOTHER IS THE SISTER OF NANASE'S MOTHER, MRS. KITSUNE!



TAH-DAH!

THOSE OF YOU WHO FREQUENT THE FORUMS MORE THAN THE OUTDOORS PROBABLY KNEW THAT. WHAT IS UNIVERSALLY AN UNKNOWN, HOWEVER, IS MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING REGARDING TEDD'S MOTHER.



AS SUCH, AMANDA WILL CALL MRS. KITSUNE AND ASK HER ABOUT HER SISTER AS SOON AS SHE'S DONE CHUGGING HER SODA.

MRS. KITSUNE?
I'M AMANDA FROM
THE Q&A? WHAT
CAN YOU TELL US
ABOUT YOUR
SISTER?



I HAVE NO SISTER.

KRAK-A-THOOM



YOU DON'T?
BUT MY RECORDS
SAY--

CLICK

GREAT.
NOW I'M ALL
CONFUSED.



"DEAR AMANDA, LISA, AND THAT CHIKA CHICK. WHAT TIME OF YEAR DOES THE COMIC TAKE PLACE? IS THERE AN EXACT DATE?"



WELL, I KNOW THE STORY WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE TALKING PLACE IN THE FALL BUT WAS LATER CHANGED TO THE SPRING, BUT AS FOR AN EXACT DATE, THAT WOULD BE A LOT OF WORK TO FIGURE OUT...



ACTUALLY, IT APPEARS THE WORK HAS BEEN DONE FOR US. SOME FANS, AIDED BY THE COMIC AND DAN'S INPUT, MANAGED TO SORT IT OUT ALREADY.



WELL, THAT'S CONVENIENT... APPARENTLY, "THE GOO" STORYLINE STARTED ON JANUARY 25TH, AND "SISTER" ENDED JANUARY 31ST. "NIGHT OUT" DIDN'T HAPPEN UNTIL MARCH 1ST, AND "SISTER II" ENDED WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH.



HM. BASED ON WHAT LITTLE INFO I HAVE, THE DATE AS OF THE START OF THE NEXT STORYLINE (AS FAR AS THE STORY IS CONCERNED) WILL BE FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH AT THE EARLIEST.



AMANDA, YOUR CLOTHES APPEAR TO BE LOOSER THAN WHEN WE STARTED.



AW, CRAP.

I ESTIMATE YOUR CLOTHES ARE SHRINKING AT 70% THE RATE OF THE REST OF YOU, SO THIS IS A SOLID PROOF OF CONCEPT. YOU JUST NEED TO AMP UP THE PROJECTED SHRINK ENERGY.

I WAS TRYING TO KEEP IT FROM SHRINKING MORE THAN MY CLOTHES.

IS THERE MORE OF THE SODA? I COULD ANALYZE IT AS A SECOND OPINION.

SURE, THERE'S A CASE IN THE BIG CABINET. YOU CAN ANSWER THE NEXT QUESTION WHILE LISA HELPS ME GET IT.

ME? I SUPPOSE I DID TECHNICALLY ANSWER THE LAST ONE, BUT WHICH ONE DO I ANSWER NOW?

JUST PICK AN INTERESTING ONE.

OKAY, LET'S SEE... "WHY DID MR. VERRIS AND HIS AGENTS HAVE WANDS?" NO, TOO OBVIOUS. THEY CLEARLY HAD WANDS BECAUSE ONLY TRUE WIZARDS CAN LEARN OTHER PEOPLE'S SPELLS, SO THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE STANDARD ISSUE SPELLS FOR EVERY AGENT IS WITH THINGS LIKE WANDS WITH PRESET SPELLS.

"ARE STRANGE HAIR COLORS NATURAL IN THE EGS UNIVERSE?" I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "STRANGE"... DO THEY LIVE IN A UNIVERSE WITHOUT BROWN, BLACK OR BLONDE HAIR? I SUPPOSE THE ANSWER IS "YES", BUT THERE MUST BE A BETTER QUESTION.

"WHAT WERE THOSE INNER DEMONS OF ELLIOT'S MENTIONED WAY BACK IN THE DAY?" THAT WAS JUST A MOVE THAT WOULD HAVE POWERED UP ELLIOT WHILE MAKING HIM BERSERK THAT DAN DECIDED TO RETCON OUT OF CONTINUITY AS SIMPLY BEING MADE UP FOR THE EXHIBITION MATCH. THAT'S A BIT BORING... WHAT ELSE IS HERE?

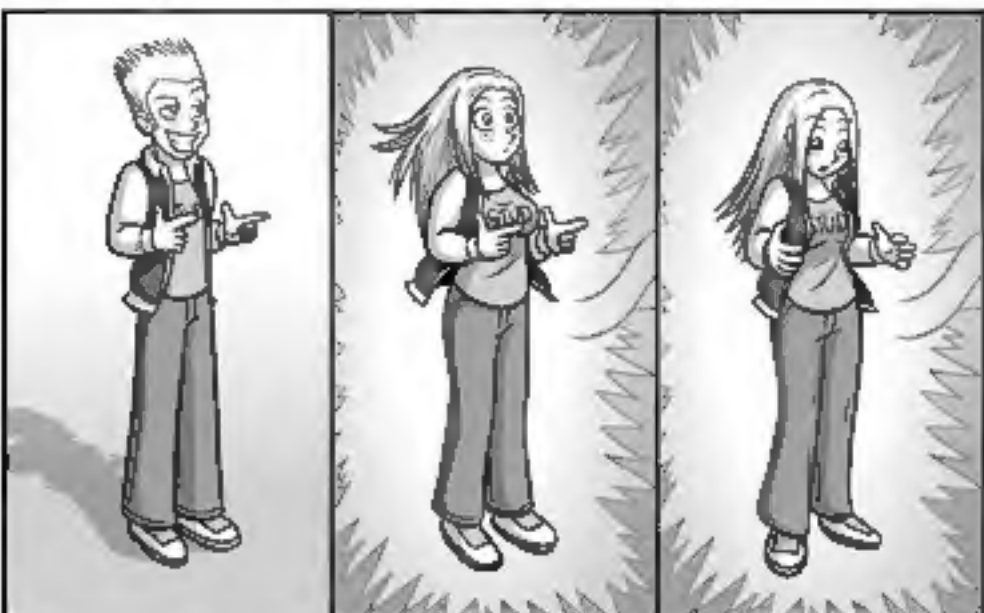
CHIKA, COULD YOU SLOW IT DOWN? WE'RE GONNA RUN OUT OF QUESTIONS AT THIS RATE.

BUT I HAVE YET TO CHOOSE ONE TO ANSWER...



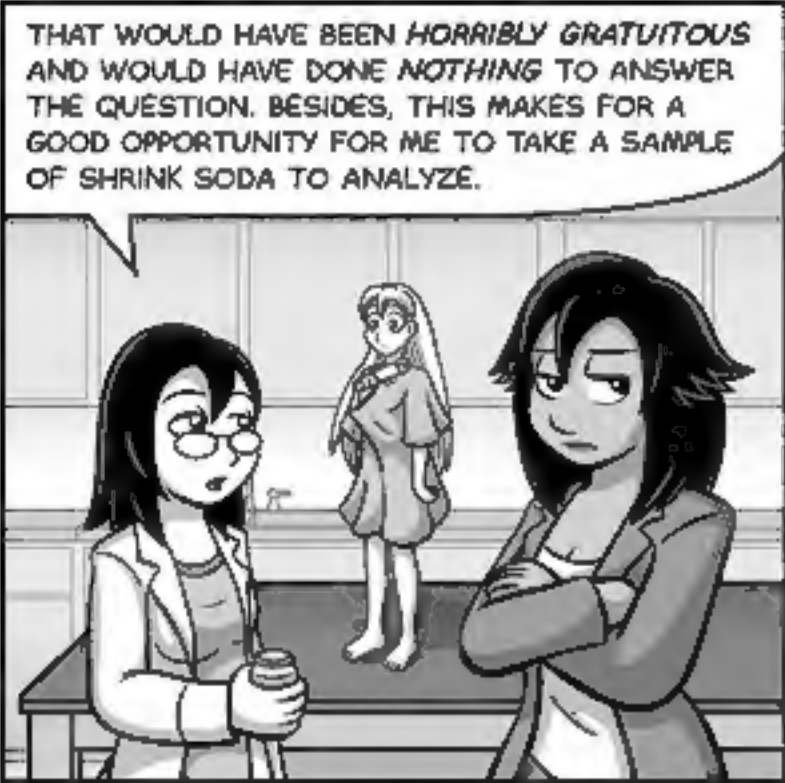
OKAY, HERE'S A NON-SPOILER ONE THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING. "WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU HIT SOMEONE WITH FEMALE VARIANT #5 TWICE? WILL IT FURTHER CHANGE SOMEONE'S FIGURE?"

SIMPLY PUT, NO, IT WON'T. IF SHOT WITH ELLEN'S BEAM, IT WILL REVERT THE PERSON BACK TO NORMAL. IF SHOT WITH THE TF GUN'S BEAM, HOWEVER, THE BEAM WILL KNOW THAT ITS WORK IS ALREADY DONE AND DO NOTHING.



WELL, THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO ANSWER.

WE COULD HAVE DRAWN IT OUT MORE IF I HAD DRUNK A SLOW ACTING VS SODA LIKE I WANTED.



THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HORRIBLY GRATUITOUS AND WOULD HAVE DONE NOTHING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. BESIDES, THIS MAKES FOR A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO TAKE A SAMPLE OF SHRINK SODA TO ANALYZE.



YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO... INADVERTENTLY SHAKE THE CASE WHILE GETTING IT OUT OF THE CABINET, DID YOU?

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL ABOUT HOW INTENTIONAL IT WAS AND MY ASSUMING YOU WOULD TILT THE CAN TOWARDS YOURSELF...

WELL, NOW THAT LISA'S SHRINKING AS WELL, I GUESS WE MAY AS WELL ANSWER THE MOST COMMON SIZE CHANGE QUESTIONS. IT'S THE SORT OF THING WE WOULD HAVE LEFT FOR TEDD AND GRACE IN EGGS.NP, BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES..



OH. SURE, YOU SAY THAT AFTER YOU ANSWER A TRANSFORMATION BEAM QUESTION! YEAH, WHATEVER



..WHAT THEY HELL WERE THEY--NEVERMIND. FIRST OFF EATING IF YOU EAT SOMETHING AFTER SHRINKING, IT WON'T GROW WHEN YOU GROW BACK SO YOU WON'T STAY FULL. THIS IS BECAUSE THE SHRINK ENERGY KEEPS YOU SHRUNK. AND EVENTUALLY WEAKENS AND YOU GROW BACK.



IT WON'T GROW SOMETHING THAT WASN'T SHRUNK WHEN YOU SHRANK.

GROWING. MOST METHODS OF GROWTH RESULT IN A TIGHT FORCE FIELD OF SORTS AROUND YOUR BODY THAT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM GETTING CRUSHED FROM ALL SORTS OF BAD POSSIBILITIES, SUCH AS OUTGROWING THE BUILDING YOU'RE IN. THE BUILDING WILL GIVE BEFORE YOUR BODY DOES.



SPEAKING OF WHICH. SHRUNKEN INDIVIDUALS USUALLY HAVE SOMETHING SIMILAR THAT MAKES THEM PROPORTIONATELY MUCH MORE DURABLE. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WON'T GO FLYING IF YOU KICK THEM OR SOMETHING, BUT IT WON'T HURT THEM NEARLY AS MUCH ONE MIGHT EXPECT



I WOULD PUT A VISUAL HERE. BUT GIVEN MY SIZE THIS HITS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME

ALSO. AS WE'VE DEMONSTRATED WITH LISA YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACTUALLY DRINK SHRINK SODA TO SHRINK CHIKA ONLY GOT A LITTLE ON HER HAND, SO THERE'S A DELAYED REACTION TO HER SHRINKING.

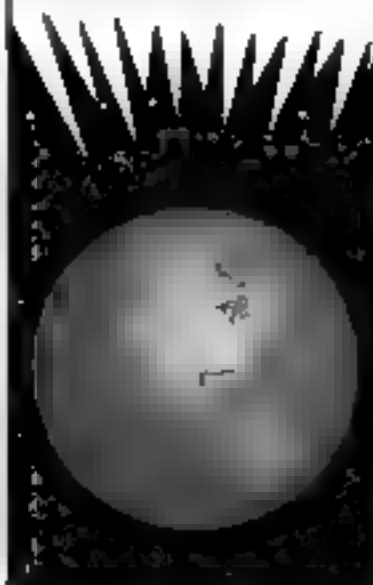


WAIT, WHAT?

..AND WE'RE BACK! THERE'S BEEN A BIT OF A TIME SKIP ON ACCOUNT OF MY HAVING FINISHED SHRINKING. THERE WAS JUST NO WAY THAT SHIRT WAS STAYING ON AND LISA NEEDED SOME DRY CLOTHES, SO AS A COURTESY, WE'VE SKIPPED AHEAD TO AFTER WE'D FINISHED CHANGING OUR CLOTHING.



**NOOOO
OOOO~!**



A RECENT ANSWER, HOWEVER, HAS PROMPTED ANOTHER QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE WHO HAS GROWN EATS A LOT AND THEN RETURNS TO NORMAL SIZE?



BASICALLY, THEY JUST BURP LOUDLY AND ARE FINE TRANSFORMATION IN THE EGGS UNIVERSES CARRY FEW RISKS.

**IT'S MORE
FUN THAT WAY**



THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE CONFUSION AS TO WHY FEMALE VARIANT #5, OR V5, TRANSFORMATIONS STACK ON ELLEN WHEN SHE'S ALREADY IN A V5 FORM OF ELLIOT



THE ANSWER IS SIMPLY THAT SHE *ISN'T* IN A V5 FORM.

YES ELLEN'S APPEARANCE IS BASED ON A V5'D ELLIOT BUT THAT'S JUST HOW SHE LOOKS. AS FAR AS ANYTHING ELSE IS CONCERNED, SHE IS *NOT* TRANSFORMED. ZAP HER WITH A TF GUN, AND SHE'LL MORPH JUST AS ANY OTHER GIRL WOULD



WAIT, WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO BE GETTING V5'D IN THAT VISUAL?



A CAT FORM ILLUSTRATES THE POINT, AND THERE'S ALREADY ENOUGH RISQUE THINGS GOING ON IN THIS Q&A WITH THE TWO OF YOU SHRINKING OUT OF YOUR CLOTHES.

DON'T YOU MEAN THE THREE OF US?



GIVEN THAT I HAVE A DEVICE THAT CAN REDISTRIBUTE THE SHRINK ENERGY SO MY CLOTHES AND I SHRINK EVENLY WHILE MAKING ME SHRINK LESS? NO.

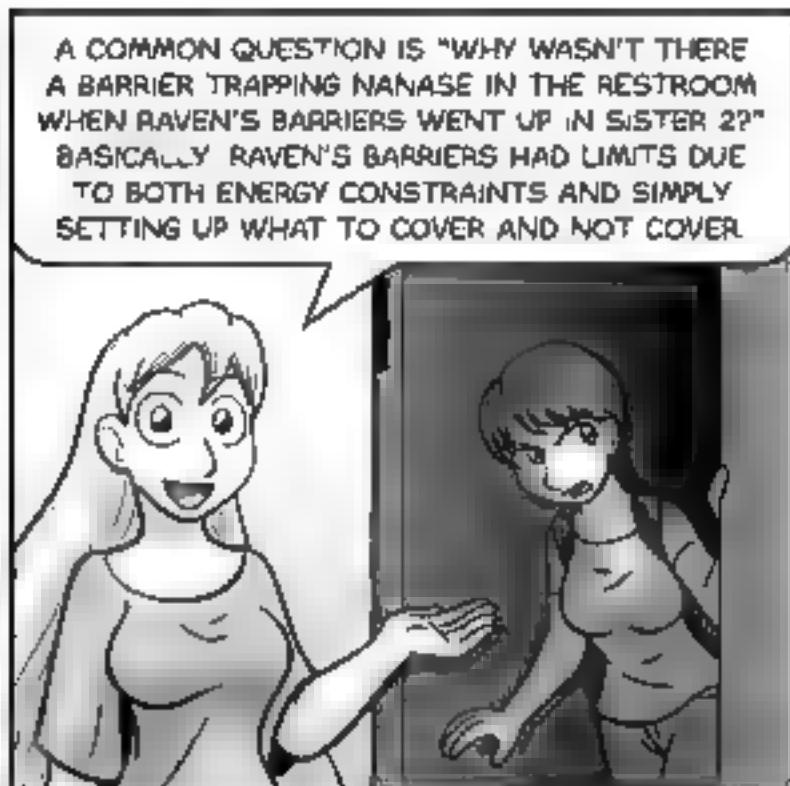


AND NOW
FOR OUR NEXT
QUESTION...

WAIT WHAT'S
UP WITH THAT
WATCH THING?

LISA,
PLEASE
THIS IS
A Q&A.

AND I'M ASKING
A QUESTION!



A COMMON QUESTION IS "WHY WASN'T THERE
A BARRIER TRAPPING NANASE IN THE RESTROOM
WHEN RAVEN'S BARRIERS WENT UP IN SISTER 2?"
BASICALLY RAVEN'S BARRIERS HAD LIMITS DUE
TO BOTH ENERGY CONSTRAINTS AND SIMPLY
SETTING UP WHAT TO COVER AND NOT COVER.



THE BARRIERS ONLY AUTOMATICALLY SEALED DOORS.
HE MANUALLY MADE THE ADDITIONAL BARRIERS IN THE
HALLWAY WHERE HE FOUGHT ABRAHAM. THE RESTROOM
NANASE WAS IN WAS OF THE SORT WHERE THERE IS NO
DOOR. SO RAVEN'S SPELL DID NOT AUTOMATICALLY SEAL
IT. YOU ENTER AND HAVE TO GO AROUND A CORNER, SO
THERE'S STILL JUST AS MUCH PRIVACY BUT THERE'S
NOTHING TO OPEN TO GET IN OR OUT.

Entrance

Perpetual
Pillow Fight

Hallway



AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY THEY
SHOULD BE! WHEN LEAVING A PUBLIC
RESTROOM, YOU SHOULD HAVE TO
TOUCH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AFTER
WASHING YOUR HANDS. IF ANYTHING!

THE FAUCETS, TOWEL DISPENSERS
AND AIR DRYERS SHOULD BE MOTION
ACTVATED, AND THERE SHOULD BE
NO FRICKIN' DOOR HANDLE!



NOT EVERYONE WASHES THEIR HANDS BEFORE
TOUCHING THOSE THINGS! I'VE SEEN PEOPLE
EXIT STALLS AND WALK RIGHT PAST THE SINKS!

THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A WAY
TO GET OUT WITHOUT TOUCHING
THAT DAMN DIRTY HANDLE!



WELL, JH THAT WAS--

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH
THAT WATCH, FURBALL?!

WELL HERE WE ARE NEAR THE END OF THIS Q&A, AND IT'S BEEN DECIDED TO QUICKLY AND BRIEFLY ADDRESS SEVERAL COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMIC. BY BEING BRIEF I BELIEVE WE CAN AVOID MAJOR SPOILERS WHILE STILL PROVIDING INFORMATION THAT MANY WILL APPRECIATE



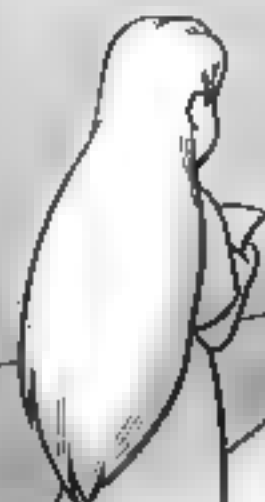
"WILL GREG AND/OR THE DOJO BE IN THE STORY AGAIN?" YES. "WILL THE CHILD LEFT BEHIND BE REVEALED?" YES. "WILL LORD TEDD BE FOCUSED ON ANYTIME SOON?" NO HE WAS INTRODUCED WAY TOO EARLY BEFORE DAN KNEW BETTER. "DO ANY UPCOMING STORYLINES INCLUDE NOAH?" YES. "WHAT DOES THE COUNT-DOWN MEAN?" ...WA T WHAT? COUNTDOWN?



WAIT--THAT ONE'S FROM DAN... "SORRY COULDN'T RESIST THIS WILL START TO MAKE SENSE AFTER THE NEXT STORYLINE" ?



DAN HAS BEEN LISTENING TO "THE FINAL COUNTDOWN" BY EUROPE A LOT LATELY BUT WHAT HAPPENED OVER THERE?



CHIKA JUST SHOWED ME THAT HER DEUS EX MACHINA OF A WATCH CAN TRANSFER SHRINK ENERGY

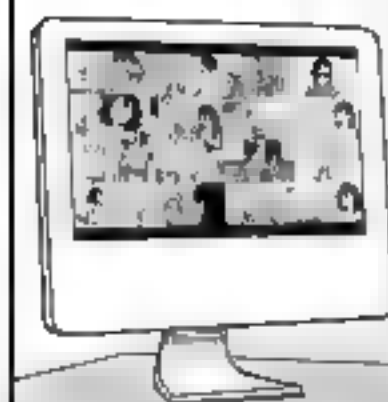
OF COURSE I ASKED HER TO SHOW ME BY SHRINKING YOU MORE



HELLO, I'M DR. GERMAHN. THE FINAL QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED, MUCH TO THE JOY OF SOME AND THE RAGE OF OTHERS, IS SIMPLY WHAT'S BECOME OF ME. BASICALLY I'M STILL AROUND. I JUST PICK AND CHOOSE EXPERIMENTS AT MY LEISURE AND VISIT THE LABS WHEN I WANT TO.



IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I MUST BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT TO KEEP TABS ON THEM GIVEN THE HIGH DEFINITION CAMERAS WITH UP TO 2000X ZOOM I HAVE ALL AROUND THE LABS AND FACILITY FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, OF COURSE.



AND THUS CONCLUDES THE Q&A! WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED IT IF NOT WELL, IT'S OVER NOW, SO THERE AT LEAST UNTIL WE COME BACK AGAIN ANYWAY

AND SO WE LEAVE YOU WITH ONE LAST MESSAGE FROM DAN REGARDING UPCOMING STORIES.

WE'RE
BRINGING SILLY
BACK.

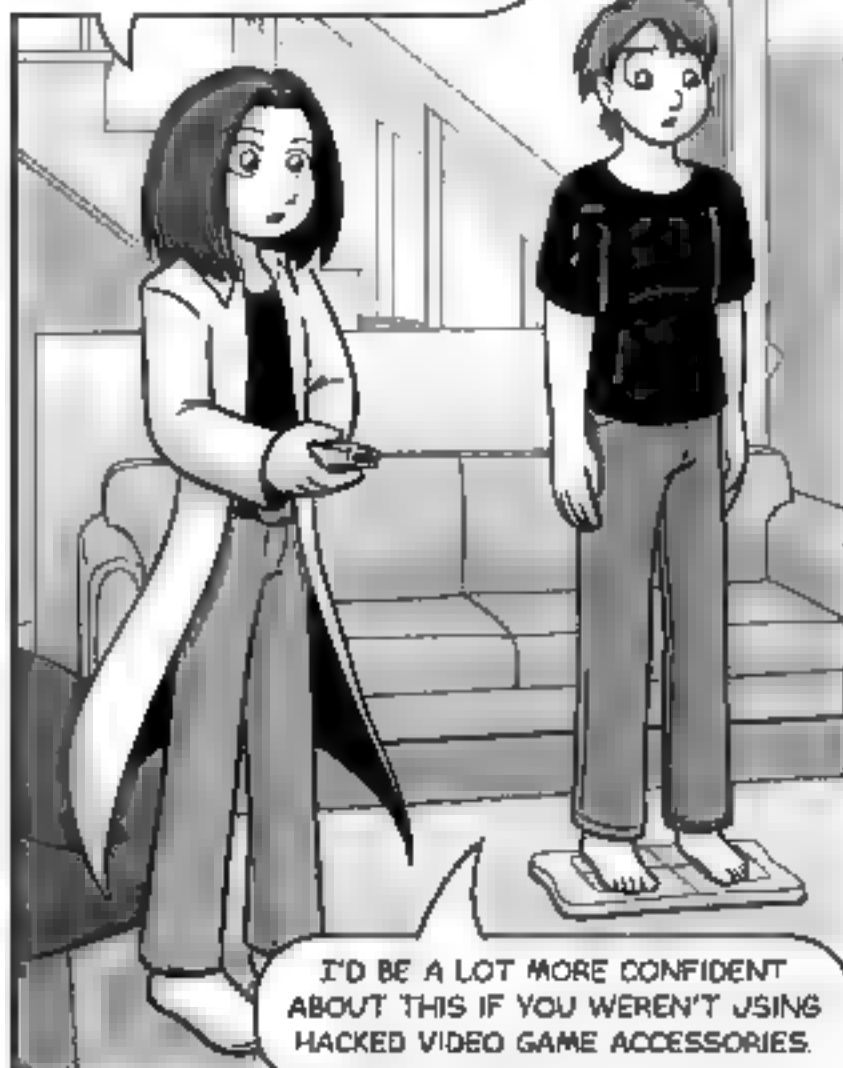




I CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M LETTING HIM
DO THIS

SO TEDD... I
LIKE HOW YOU'VE
REDECORATED
DOWN HERE

THANKS. BUT IT WAS MOSTLY MY DAD. HE NEEDED
SOMETHING TO DO AFTER BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY
PROMOTED AND PUT ON TWO WEEKS SUSPENSION.
NOW HOLD STILL, ELLIOT. I
NEED TO GET A BASE READING.



I'D BE A LOT MORE CONFIDENT
ABOUT THIS IF YOU WEREN'T USING
HACKED VIDEO GAME ACCESSORIES.

WHAT CAN I
SAY? I'M A MAD
SCIENTIST ON A
BUDGET

DID HE REALLY HAVE
TO SAY "MAD"?



OKAY WE'RE GOOD TO GO. MORPH AT WILL.

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, I LEARNED THAT
TOUCHING A MAGIC DIAMOND NOT ONLY
MADE ME A GUY AGAIN AND CREATED ELLEN.
IT ALSO GAVE ME AND ELLEN MAGIC POWERS.
WE HAVE TO USE THEM OR THE ENERGY
BUILDS UP AND
WE'RE FORCED
TO USE THEM
ANYWAY

SO FAR, ALL I CAN
DO IS VARIATIONS
OF TURNING INTO
A GIRL. YAY

WELL, I CAN ALSO
TURN INTO A WERE
CAT, BUT THAT
HURTS LIKE HELL.



TEDD, MEANWHILE, LEARNED
THAT MAGIC AND WHATEVER
POWERS HIS TRANSFORMATION
STUFF IS SOMEHOW RELATED



THIS LEAD TO HIM RANTING
ABOUT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS
"NOT ACTUALLY BENDING" OR
SOMETHING. AND HOW IT
OPENED UP POSSIBILITIES.



I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT, BUT HE SAID
HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP
GET ME OVER THE ENERGY
BUILDUPS AND GET NON-GIRLY
SPELLS FASTER.



OF COURSE, HE MIGHT JUST WANT TO STARE AT MY MAGIC BOOBS.



OKAY AWESOME, YOUR HAIR AND CLOTHES CHANGED.

I'M GOING TO TWEEZE A HAIR SAMPLE. THIS MIGHT HURT A LITTLE

ONE STRAND OF HAIR ISN'T GONNA BOTHER ME



P
L
U
C
K

SON OF A—

INTERESTING.



I SHOULD GO EASIER ON TEDD. HE'S BEEN VERY PROFESSIONAL AND HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING INAPPROPRIATE



TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT

NEVERMIND.

WHOA, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO GET NAKED! THE HAIR'S STILL CHANGED SEE? I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SHIRT!



OH, I GUESS THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION.



THERE'S A REASON I SAID TO BRING EXTRA CLOTHES, YOU KNOW YOU CAN CHANGE IN THE OTHER ROOM.

SORRY, BUT YOU COULD HAVE PHRASED THAT BETTER



FOR THE RECORD, I AM MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN FIGURING OUT THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALL THIS THAN STARING AT A WOMAN'S NAKED BREASTS!

...OH, DEAR LORD, WHAT HAVE I BECOME?



BLASPHEMY

I DUNNO MATURE?

THE SHIRT
DIDN'T CHANGE BACK.
DOES THAT MEAN
ANYTHING?



I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE CAREFUL
ABOUT NOT BEING SEEN WHEN YOU HAVE
TO TRANSFORM IN A PUBLIC PLACE RIGHT?

YEAH. I MORPH IN LOCKED BATHROOM STALLS.
TOILETS OF SOLITUDE.



YOU MIGHT WANNA
START WAITING FOR THE
WHOLE RESTROOM TO
BE EMPTY FIRST

WHAT, SERIOUSLY? WHO'S
GONNA GO PEEKING IN STALLS?

I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST SOME OF
MOPERVILLE'S LATEST TOURISTS.



...MOPERVILLE IS, LIKE, THE EPICENTER OF
PARANORMAL FREAKINESS, MAN! IT MAY BE
HIDING RIGHT NOW BUT IT WAS OUT IN OPEN
TWO WEEKS AGO AND WE'RE GONNA FIND IT!

WHOA, IS THAT
THAT CREEPY FLOATING
GIRL APPEARING?!

NO WAIT
THAT'S THE SUN
REFLECTING OFF
GLASS.



BUT THE TRUTHNESS IS HERE
MAN! THE TRUTHNESS IS HERE!

ALSO TWO WEEKS AGO, THE IDIOT BASTARD WIZARD
WHO MADE THE MAGIC DIAMOND TRIED TO KILL MY
SISTER AND LEFT EVIDENCE OF THE PARANORMAL
BEHIND HIM. THEN THAT "CREEPY FLOATING GIRL"
APPEARED AND DISAPPEARED ON LIVE TELEVISION.



MOPERVILLE TURNED INTO A
TOURIST TRAP FOR PARANORMAL
ENTHUSIASTS OVERNIGHT

TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THE COVER STORY
OPENLY STATES WHOEVER INVADED THE
SCHOOL WAS AFTER SOMEONE



ELLEN'S NAME'S BEEN WITHHELD BUT IF
ANYONE FROM HER SCHOOL MAKES PUBLIC
THAT SHE WAS MISSING AFTER THE
INCIDENT IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE ALL THE NUTS KNOW ABOUT IT







EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

I SEE TWO CATS.

CAN SHE
CHANGE BACK?

YES.

ONE IS ELLEN.

YES.



GOOD SHOW
ELLEN! MOST
IMPRESSIVE!

THANKS,
DAD!

YOUR DAUGHTER IS A CAT; YOU COULD
AT LEAST *PRETEND* THIS IS ODD.



I SUPPOSE NOW'S AS GOOD
A TIME AS ANY TO DISCUSS
THE TV SITUATION.

AH, YES. WE'VE DECIDED IT'S
FINALLY TIME TO GET A NEW
TV FOR DOWNSTAIRS, SO WE
WERE THINKING THE OLD TV
SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP HERE



WE GET THE OLD TV?

SWEET!



YES, WE'RE FINALLY ENTERING THE
WORLD OF WIDESCREEN TV. WE
ALSO PLAN TO GET THAT VIDEO
GAME BOWLING SYSTEM.

YES, BUT WHO
CARES ABOUT
THOSE?

IT ALSO
PLAYS OTHER
GAMES.



ANYWAY WE'RE WILLING TO GIVE
YOU THE OLD TV AND EVEN PAY
FOR A TV STAND. BUT WE WANT
YOU, ELLIOT, TO ACQUIRE AND
ASSEMBLE THE STAND. HERE'S
WHAT WE WANT YOU TO GET

HUH. THIS LOOKS LIKE THE ONE
TEDD'S GOT IN HIS BASEMENT



YES. WE ACTUALLY GOT THE
IDEA FROM HIS FATHER. THE
MAN'S BEEN A BIT GABBY
DURING HIS "TIME OFF"

ACCORDING TO THE WEBSITE
THERE'S ONLY ONE IN STOCK.
SO WE'LL NEED YOU TO GO
OUT TOMORROW TO GET IT



INDEED. I'M AFRAID THAT IN
ORDER TO ACQUIRE THIS TV
STAND YOU WILL HAVE TO
BRAVE THE LABYRINTH THAT
IS... *SWEDEKEA*.

**KRAK-A-
THOOM**



AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS DIAGRAM, SWEDEKEA IS A MASSIVE MAZE OF GOODS, FURNITURE AND BARGAINS. YOUR QUARRY IS IN THE WAREHOUSE BUT YOU CAN ONLY GET TO IT BY MAKING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE REST OF THE STORE



IT LOOKS SIMPLE YES, BUT THIS RUDIMENTARY MAP DOESN'T SHOW THE VARIOUS DISPLAYS PASSAGEWAYS AND DISTRACTING BARGAINS THAT CAN MAKE YOU QUESTION WHICH WAY TO GO



INCLUDED IN THAT PRINTOUT IS A SMALL VERSION OF THIS MAP *STICK TO IT, AND YOU WILL NOT GET LOST DEVIATE, AND YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN A MAZE OF LIVING ROOMS, KITCHEN WARES, OR POSSIBLY EVEN KITSCHY TABLE DECORATIONS.*

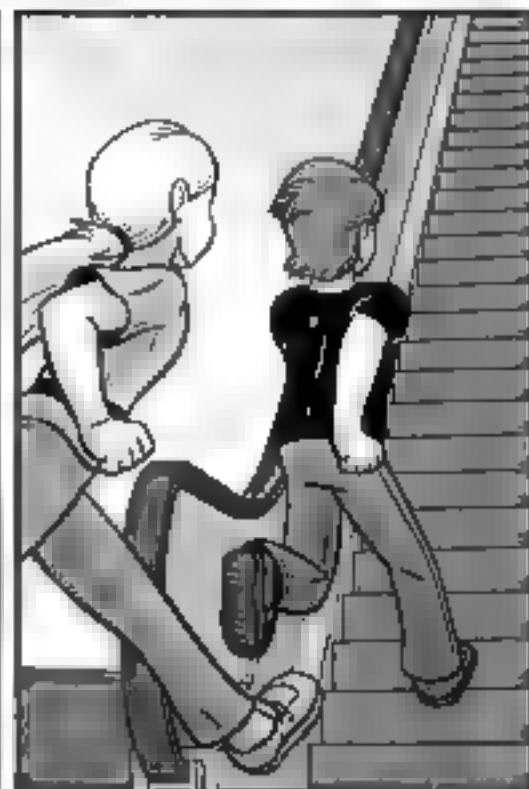


ONCE THROUGH THERE, YOU WILL ENTER A WAREHOUSE OF OMINOUS, TOWERING STORAGE UNITS. ALL YOU NEED TO DO, HOWEVER, IS LOCATE THE SHELF WITH THE ALPHANUMERIC DESIGNATION ON THE PRINTOUT AND YOU WILL HAVE FOUND THE TV STAND

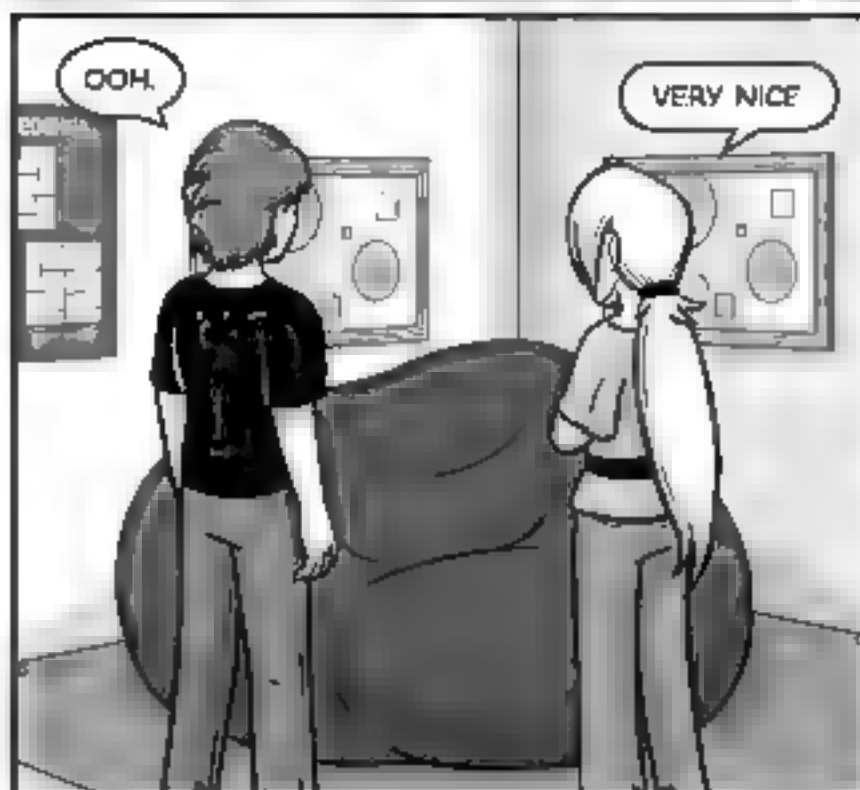


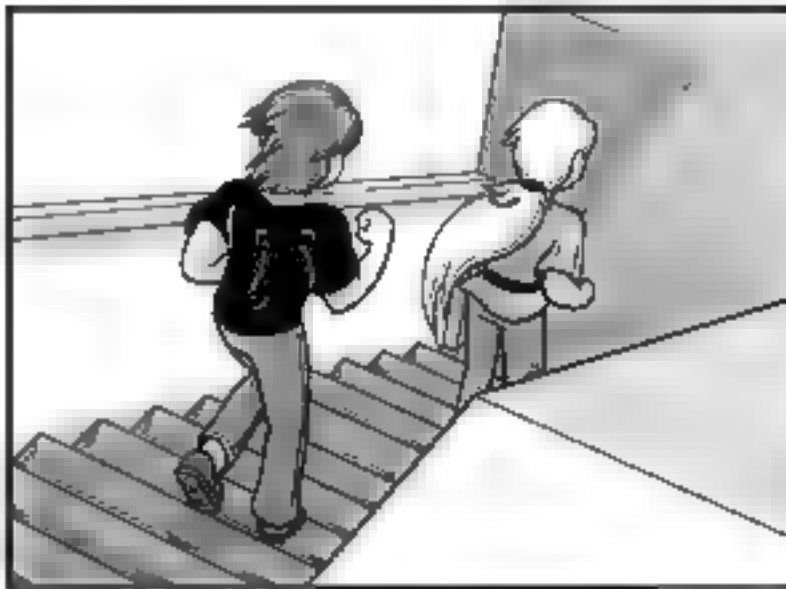
OKAY SERIOUSLY, DID YOU GUYS GET THAT PRINTED UP AT A PRINT SHOP OR SOMETHING?











Note: The above panel *probably* didn't happen.





BETWEEN THE FURNITURE AND THE FOOD COURT A SNEAKY ENOUGH PERSON COULD PROBABLY LIVE IN THIS STORE ..



IN FAIRNESS SHE IS NOT REALLY MY "GIRL-FRIEND" OUR FRIENDSHIP IS SERIOUS, BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS NOT SHE IS OPENLY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE, BUT WE PROVIDE CLOSE COMFORT AND PLEASURE FOR EACH OTHER.



THAT'S...
CANDID.

I APOLOGIZE IF THAT
WAS TOO MUCH INFORMATION.
I COMPREHEND THE NEED FOR
SECRETS IN OUR SOCIETY BUT
I HATE KEEPING THEM.



AND HE'S IN ELLEN'S GYM CLASS? CRAP



OH. THAT'S
OKAY, I DON'T
MIND.

BUT IT'S GOOD TO
HAVE SOME PRIVACY
RIGHT? I MEAN, NO
GOOD WOULD COME
FROM EVERYTHING
BEING PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE. RIGHT?

MY PARENTS
WOULD STILL BE
ALIVE.



DAMMIT

I AM SORRY I DID NOT INTEND TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS JUST THAT YOUR QUESTION...

NO, NO I'M SORRY! I...

WHY? EVERYTHING BECOMING COMMON KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE DISASTROUS, AND YOU ONLY ASKED THAT BECAUSE I SAID TOO MUCH.

I USUALLY KEEP TO MYSELF BUT I LACK MUCH OF A FILTER ONCE I GET GOING, AND, I'M SORRY I'M BEING STUPID...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO HANDLE THIS, DO YOU?

I... WHAT?

THIS. SOCIALIZING WITH SOMEONE NEW YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING. DO YOU?

NOT REALLY NO. I AM STILL NOT SURE HOW I BECAME FRIENDS WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.

WELL, I SUCK AT IT TOO BUT LOOK AT US. WE JUST RANDOMLY MET AND CHALLENGED EACH OTHER, RIGHT? WE COULD'VE JUST GONE OUR SEPARATE WAYS AFTER THAT, BUT WE DIDN'T THAT'S PROGRESS, DAMMIT!

I SEE HOW DO WE FURTHER THIS PROGRESS?

JUST KEEP TALKING AND SAVE THE PERSONAL STUFF UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE CONFIRMED I'M SOMEONE WHO SHOULD HEAR IT YOU KNOW, START WITH BASIC STUFF LIKE TV SHOWS.

...HAVE YOU HEARD OF A SHOW CALLED "THE SIMPSONS"?

IT SOUNDS FAMILIAR, YES.

Later that evening, back at home.



Meanwhile, at Noah's home.



Wednesday, March 20, on a plane of
existence beyond mortal awareness



One week after the wizard,
Abraham, attempted to kill Ellen...



I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO
BE CREATIVE. JUST TELL
ME YOUR DAMN NAME



MAKE HIM KILL
THE WIZARD.

...NO! I
WON'T...

DO IT, OR YOU'RE
ON YOUR OWN...
I WILL NEVER HELP
YOU AGAIN.

NO



PANDORA IS A MONSTER KNOWN ONLY BY MONSTERS. SOMEONE HAS TO STOP HER.



IMMORTALS CONSTANTLY GUARD ELLIOT I NEED HIM ALONE WITH ELLEN. AND ELLEN MUST BE MADE TO ZAP ELLIOT WHILE I AM PRESENT

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE I CANNOT TRUST IMMORTALS BUT THAT ONLY LEAVES ONE OTHER BEING THAT I'M EVEN AWARE OF.. ITS HELP COULD SOLVE EVERYTHING AND YET..



I WILL HAVE MUCH TO ATONE FOR SHOULD I ONCE AGAIN ENLIST ITS ASSISTANCE

Meanwhile, an office in Chicago.

ANY MESSAGES?

NO SIR.

GOOD HOLD MY CALLS

YES. SIR



HACK COUGH

COUGH



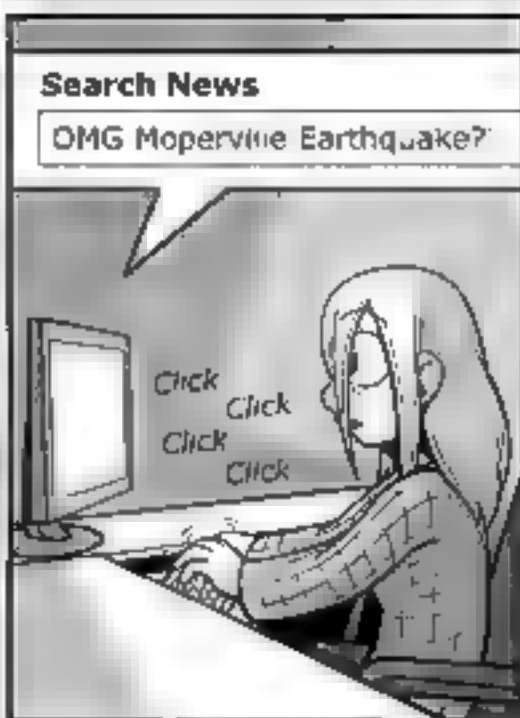
NO, OLD MAN....



YOU DON'T GET TO DIE YET.



R-R-RU-U-U-MBLE



SPRING BREAK! WOO!

YOU KNOW WE'RE GOING TO A COMIC BOOK SHOP RIGHT?

YEAH, ABOUT THAT I KNOW YOUR BUDDY WORKS THERE. BUT COULDN'T WE GO TO THE BEACH?

IT'S NOT THAT WARM YET AND I DON'T OWN A BATHING SUIT

YOU'RE BITING YOUR TONGUE ABOUT SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?

NO, NOT AT ALL!

I OCCASIONALLY FIND SOMETHING I WANT TO READ IN THERE AND SOME OF THE GAMES THEY PLAY ARE FUN. IT'S A SURPRISINGLY NICE PLACE TO HANG OUT

WELL, EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. WHEN IT'S BUSY

AND SPRING BREAKS?

I'D ASK WHY WE DIDN'T TRY PARKING HERE FIRST BUT THE POINT SEEMS MOOT



JUSTIN!

HEY, SUSAN!



JUSTIN. CATALINA.
CATALINA, JUSTIN.

NICE TO
MEET YOU.

HOLY CRAP AREN'T COMIC BOOK GUYS
SUPPOSED TO BE GRAPEFRUIT SHAPED?



TRANSLATION: HELLO I
SEE SPRING BREAK HAS
BEEN KIND TO
BUSINESS.

ACTUALLY I THINK IT'S CREEPY
MONSTER GIRLS THAT ARE GOOD FOR
BUSINESS AT LEAST HALF THESE
PEOPLE ARE FROM OUT OF TOWN.
I GUESS COMIC BOOK AND PARA-
NORMAL FANS OVERLAP.



NO OFFENSE BUT I DUNNO
IF I WANNA HANG OUT HERE
IT'S FILLED TO CAPACITY
WITH NERD BOYS.

WELL SIR, IF IT'S NERD
GIRLS YOU'RE AFTER, I THINK
WE'VE GOT A FEW IN THE
BACK SOME OF THEM ARE
PLAYING A XENA RPG.



NERD GIRLS? XENA?
SUSAN?

GO I'M STAYING UP
HERE FOR A BIT



NOT VERY FOND
OF GUYS, IS SHE?

SHE HAS A BIT OF A "SLEAZY UNTIL PROVEN
VIRTUOUS" ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEN, YES. I'VE
HELD OFF ON SHOWING HER HOW TO SUMMON
HAMMERS TO STUN OFFENSIVE MEN BECAUSE I
FIGURE SHE'D GO OFF ON A HAMMERING SPREE.



LOOK AT THIS
ONE'S LONG HAIR.
SHE COULD BE
AN ALIEN.

YES. IF SO, SHE'S
NO DOUBT HERE TO
PROPAGATE A
SPECIES OF ALIEN-
HUMAN HYBRIDS.

..NOT THAT SUCH SPREES
ARE NEVER CALLED FOR.

YOU ASSERT HER GOAL IS PROPAGATION? EXPLAIN.



SHE IS A FEMALE WITH LONG FLOWING HAIR THAT WOULD ACT AS A HINDRANCE UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES. THEREFORE IT IS LOGICAL TO PRESUME THAT IT IS TO PROMOTE MATING. MUCH LIKE A PEACOCK'S FEATHERS.

VALID. BUT ALIENS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO VAST AMOUNTS OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD POSSESS THE MEANS TO GIVE HER A VOLUPTUOUS FIGURE BEYOND NORMAL HUMAN CAPACITY



AH, BUT DOING SO WOULD CALL TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO HER. THE HAIR MAKES HER ALLURING WITHOUT MAKING IT OBVIOUS THAT SHE IS A CREATURE FROM BEYOND THE MOON.

SHE SHOULD STILL LOGICALLY DRESS MORE LIKE A SLUT



I CONCUR. SHE IS NOT NEARLY SLUTTY ENOUGH. AS AN ALIEN, SHE MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND--

THAT'S IT!

..HUH? WHERE'S THE...?



IT WOULD APPEAR HER ADVANCED ALIEN TECHNOLOGY IS ON THE FRITZ



FORTUITOUS! WE MAY LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER DAY

FOR ASGARD!



THWACK! THWACK!

OW!

THE PLASTIC. IT HURTS!



THWACKTHWACKTHWACKTHWACKTHWACKTHWACK!



WAIT SARAH, WE
HAVE TO STOP.

WE STILL HAVE
AN HOUR BEFORE
YOUR PLAYDATE

NO I... IT'S MY
MAGIC. I THINK I NEED
TO TRANSFORM FOR A BIT



OH

SORRY

OH, NO. IT'S OKAY..
MAYBE WE CAN HAVE
SOME FUN WITH IT



ARE. ARE
YOU SAYING WE
SHOULD KEEP ?

WHAT? NO! I
JUST THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE FUN IF YOU
TRIED TO MAKE YOUR
SELF LOOK LIKE ME



OH! YEAH. I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO DO THAT
ARE YOU SURE?

OF
COURSE! GO
AHEAD.

OKAY HERE I GO...



HOW DO
I LOOK?

I THINK YOU
GOT A COUPLE OF
DETAILS WRONG.



MEESA
FLAILING
MY ARMS!

...UGH, YOU'VE GOT
THE STAR WARS PREQUELS
PLAYING? FAIL.

I'M PLAYING THROUGH ALL
OF THEM. YOU KNOW THE
WHOLE VM. "SEXTUPLOGY"?

THE PREQUELS DON'T COUNT THEY LOST THEIR
RIGHT TO CONTINUITY IN EPISODE ONE THANKS
TO LUCAS'S BIGGEST

JAR-JAR?

NOW MAN. JAR-JAR'S LIKE
A CGI AQUATIC EWOK THE
PREQUELS COULD SURVIVE THAT

WHAT
THEN?

MIDICHLORIANS! EVERYONE WAS FINE WITH
THE FORCE IT WAS LIKE HERE'S THIS MAGIC
THING PEOPLE CAN DO. IT'S AWESOME.
DON'T QUESTION IT

IT WAS
THE FANTASY
ELEMENT OF
STAR WARS.

THEN COMES EPISODE ONE AND LUCAS IS ALL
LIKE. "QUI-GON'S GOTTA SAY ANAKIN'S A BADASS
IN POTENTIAL BUT HOW?" COMPLETELY IGNORING
THAT QUI-GON COULD JUST SAY "THE FORCE IS
STRONG WITH THIS ONE" AND WE'D ACCEPT IT.
HE INTRODUCES MIDICHLORIANS. WHICH ARE, TO
QUOTE FLANDERS AN "ANSWER TO A QUESTION
NO ONE ASKED!"

FANS WILLINGLY SUSPENDED THEIR DISBELIEF
FOR YEARS. AND OUT OF NOWHERE LUCAS
FIGURES HE HAS TO EXPLAIN IT

ANY WRITER
WHO TAKES SOME-
THING NO ONE WAS
QUESTIONING AND
TRIES TO EXPLAIN
IT IS A HACK

I THINK MONDAY'S MINOR EARTHQUAKE
KNOCKED THE ARTIFACT THAT ALLOWS WOMEN
TO SUMMON HAMMERS OFF OF ITS PEDESTAL.

IF I'M RIGHT
NO ONE WILL BE
ABLE TO SUMMON
HAMMERS UNTIL
SOMEONE PUTS
IT BACK

YOU'RE SURE WE'LL
BE GONE AT MOST
TWO NIGHTS?

WE'LL ARRIVE AT
THE PARK TOMORROW
AFTERNOON, FIND
THE CAVE THE NEXT
MORNING PUT THE
ARTIFACT BACK, AND
WE'RE DONE

IT WOULD ONLY
TAKE ONE NIGHT
IF MY MOTHER
DIDN'T OBJECT
TO ME DRIVING
FAR AFTER DARK.

(You forgot she worked in a video store? SHAME)

AND YOU'RE SURE IT'S THE EARTHQUAKE
THAT DID IT?

THE TIMELINE FITS AND THE
ARTIFACT ONLY WORKS WHEN ELEVATED
BESIDES. THE IMMORTALS WHO INTRODUCED ME
TO HAMMERS SAID THE CAVE IS Warded OFF
FROM THOSE WITH ILL INTENT IT SHOULD
LITERALLY BE A WALK IN THE PARK.

I COULD TELL YOU A THING OR
TWO ABOUT WALKS IN PARKS.
ANYWAY, MY PARENTS INSIST WE
HAVE SOMEONE WITH US WHO'S
AT LEAST EIGHTEEN, AND I
INSIST WE BRING SOME *MUSCLE*

EIGHTEEN? ARE
THEY FEARFUL WE
WON'T BE ABLE TO
VOTE OR BUY
CIGARETTES?

I DON'T KNOW,
BUT IT'S THEIR
CONDITION FOR
LETTING ME GO

AS FOR MUSCLE I DON'T WANT TO
BURDEN ELLEN OR NANASE AFTER
EVERYTHING THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH
LATELY, AND MEN MIGHT MESS WITH
THE CAVE'S WARD.

WE DO HAVE ONE FRIEND
WHO'S EIGHTEEN FEMALE.
AND CAN KICK ASS.

WAIT YOU'RE NOT
SUGGESTING WE GO ON
A ROAD TRIP WITH-

**ROAD TRIP!
WOO!**

I THOUGHT YOU
LIKED GRACE

LIKING SOMEONE AND WANTING TO SPEND
SIXTEEN HOURS IN A CAR WITH THEM
ARE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS.

SO JM... I'M FLATTERED YOU INVITED ME AND I'M HAPPY TO GO ON A TRIP BUT IS HITTING MEN WITH MAGIC HAMMERS REALLY THIS IMPORTANT?



A LOT OF MEN ARE SEXIST JERKS AND THE HAMMERS GIVE WOMEN A COUNTERATTACK WITHOUT ACTUALLY DAMAGING THE MEN. THEY'RE WORTH A ROAD TRIP TO KEEP AROUND.

WHAT ABOUT YOU SARAH? YOU DON'T USE THE HAMMERS MUCH. DO YOU?

NO BUT I STILL WANT TO BE ABLE TO.

JUST IN CASE?



BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY MAGIC I CAN DO. I'VE FANTASIZED ABOUT BEING A WIZARD SINCE I WAS LITTLE, AND NOW ALMOST ALL OF MY FRIENDS CAN DO MAGIC AND I CAN'T



THE HAMMERS AREN'T MUCH, BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY MAGIC I'VE EVER HAD AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.

...MY SHAPESHIFTING ISN'T TECHNICALLY MAGIC



DON'T GET ME WRONG! I THINK ALL OF YOUR MAGIC AND ABILITIES AND STUFF IS AWESOME! I DON'T RESENT ANY OF YOU FOR YOUR MAGIC AND ABILITIES!

EXCEPT MAYBE ELLIOT



YOU RESENT ELLIOT'S MAGIC?

WHAT? NO I DON'T!

YES YOU DO. YOU WHISPERED "EXCEPT ELLIOT"



UH... HEY IS THAT A DEMONIC DUCK OF SOME SORT?!

YOU PEOPLE AGAIN?

EXCUSE ME?

HEY, THE DUCK! HE'S MAGIC YOU CAN DO!



A CAR? SERIOUSLY A MOVING CAR? FIRST A KITCHEN
YOU FAIL TO FLEE FROM. AND NOW THIS? STOP
WASTING MY DISTRACTIONARY TALENTS!

I'M SORRY IS
THERE ANYWHERE WE
CAN DROP YOU OFF?



BAH DON'T BOTHER. WE'RE NEXT
TO THE SHOULDER AND I'M MAGIC
I'LL JUST GET OUT HERE

YOU'LL
WHAT?!



SSH--
SLAM **HONK**
HONK
UHNFI! OW! GANGWAY!



MOOO
MOO
LOOK OUT
COWS!
MOO
THWACK



HE'S FINE.



SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH ELLIOT HAVING MAGIC?
YOU WERE TELLING ME HOW YOU WERE
PLANNING TO TAKE HIM SHOPPING AND MAKE
THE WHOLE THING FUN FOR BOTH OF YOU

YEAH, WELL, IT'S NOT
WORKING OUT THAT WAY

THANKS. BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT I KNOW IT
SHOULDN'T AFFECT ME THIS WAY BUT... I'M
NOT AS ATTRACTED TO HIM AS I USED TO BE
EVERY TIME I THINK I'M OVER IT, I GET
REMINDING OF HOW OFTEN HE'S A GIRL. AND

IT'S STUPID
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE A PROBLEM
WITH IT

YOUR UTERUS. HOWEVER, THINKS
ELLIOT IS HALF A MAN AND WANTS
NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.

HE HAS TO TRANSFORM AT ALL THESE
INOPPORTUNE TIMES. AND WHENEVER HE DOES,
HE'S BETTER LOOKING THAN ME IT'S NOT HIS
FAULT AND GIVEN HIS SITUATION, I FEEL LIKE A
JERK FOR LETTING IT BOTHER ME BUT IT DOES

YOU'RE VERY CUTE SARAH AND ELLIOT'S
FEMALE FORMS ARE ENTIRELY ARTIFICIAL
YOU'RE ALL NATURAL CUTENESS!

I DOUBT YOU DO AT LEAST CONSCIOUSLY IN
YOUR MIND. I'M SURE YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM
WITH IT AND COULD EVEN SEE THE SITUATION
AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FUN.

SUSAN!

THAT'S NOT MY
OPINION. I WAS
SPEAKING FOR YOUR
UTERUS.

WELL,
DON'T!

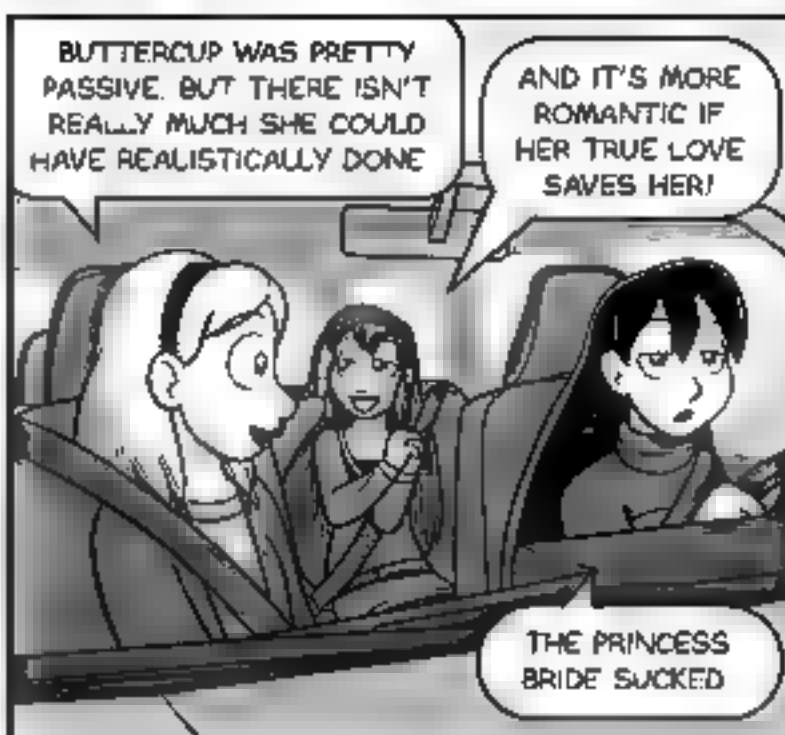
One hour



One and a half hours



Three hours





WELCOME ONCE AGAIN TO ANOTHER EXCITING EPISODE OF "MAN ENGULFS FOOD!" I'M YOUR HOST ANDY DEBTMAN. EATER OF FOOD

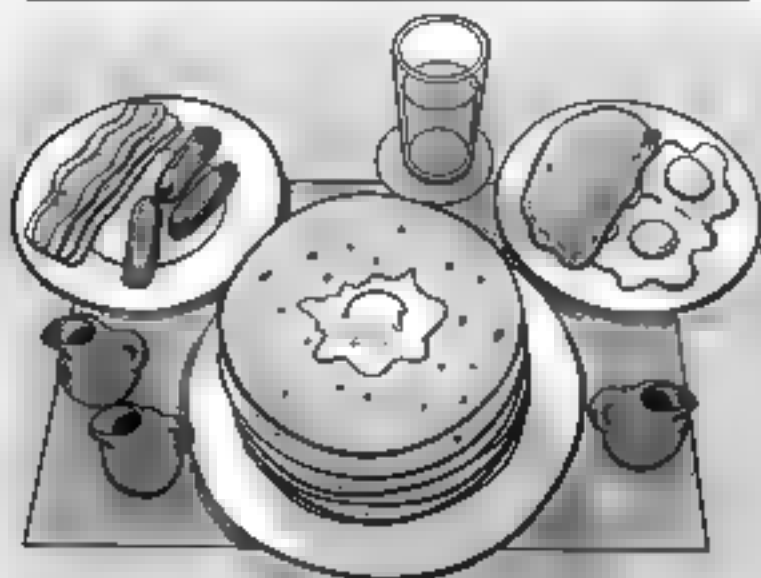


TODAY I'M AT A PANCAKE HOUSE TO TAKE ON THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGE OF DEVOURING AN ENTIRE "PANCAKE MOUNT DOOM" MEAL!

IN THE ENTIRE 25 YEAR HISTORY OF THIS RESTAURANT ONLY THREE PEOPLE HAVE EVER EATEN AN ENTIRE ORDER OF--



THIS MEAL COMES COMPLETE WITH A DOZEN FLAPJACKS, A VARIETY OF FRUIT FILLINGS, SIDES OF BACON, SAUSAGE, HASH BROWNS, THREE KINDS OF SYRUP AND YOUR CHOICE OF EGGS.



WALL OF FAME



PAN. CAKES.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN ANIMAL THAT KNOCKED OVER THE ARTIFACT RIGHT?

YAWN

MOST LIKELY BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE OR ANYTHING WITHOUT ILL 'N'TENT I'M MOSTLY HOPING SOME CLUELESS HIKER DIDN'T WANDER OFF WITH IT

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WHOLE "HORRIBLE EVIL WAITING TO KILL US" POSSIBILITY

EVEN IF SOME EVIL INDIVIDUAL WAS RESPONSIBLE. WHY WOULD THEY SIT IN A CAVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER DOING WHATEVER THEY DID?

WAIT WAIT WAIT-- SLOWING DOWN MONSTERS?!

THE MONSTER IN FRANCE WAS FUNDAMENTALLY OFFENSIVE TO WOMEN AND WEAK AGAINST WEAPONS MADE OF MAGIC.

THE HAMMERS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR PUNISHING OFFENSIVE MEN AND SLOWING DOWN CERTAIN MONSTERS ANYWAY AND THE CAVE'S Warded-

YOU COULDN'T KILL IT WITH A HAMMER. BUT YOU COULD SURE AS HELL SLOW IT DOWN.

OKAY THAT'S IT ONCE WE'RE AT THE MOTEL AND GRACE IS OUT OF HER PANCAKE COMA, YOU'RE TELLING US WHAT HAPPENED IN FRANCE!

WHAT? BUT

Z

..WILL YOU STILL INSIST ON HEARING ABOUT FRANCE IF I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT RESEARCHING EARTHQUAKES?

YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR THAT ANYWAY!

DAMMIT

NO BUTS! YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE HAMMERS THERE, YOU AND NANASE FOUGHT A MONSTER WEAK AGAINST MAGIC WEAPONS THERE, WE ARE NOW OFFICIALLY IN "NEED TO KNOW" TERRITORY! YOU'RE TELLING!

About three hours later.



OKAY SO EVEN THOUGH I DON'T THINK IT'S RELEVANT I'LL TELL YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN.



ARE YOU WEARING YOUR BERET BECAUSE I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT FRANCE?

YES.



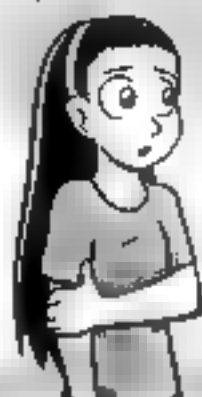
FINE WHATEVER THE SUMMER AFTER FRESHMAN YEAR, THE FRENCH CLUBS FROM MOPERVILLE NORTH AND SOUTH JOINED TOGETHER TO GO ON A TRIP TO FRANCE IT'S GENERALLY SOMETHING FOR OLDER STUDENTS, BUT NANASE GOT TO GO BECAUSE SHE WAS DAMN NEAR FLUENT IN FRENCH.



WHY DID YOU GET TO GO?

MOM, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I WENT ON THE TRIP TO FRANCE IN A COUPLE YEARS?

WHY CAN'T YOU GO *THIS* YEAR?

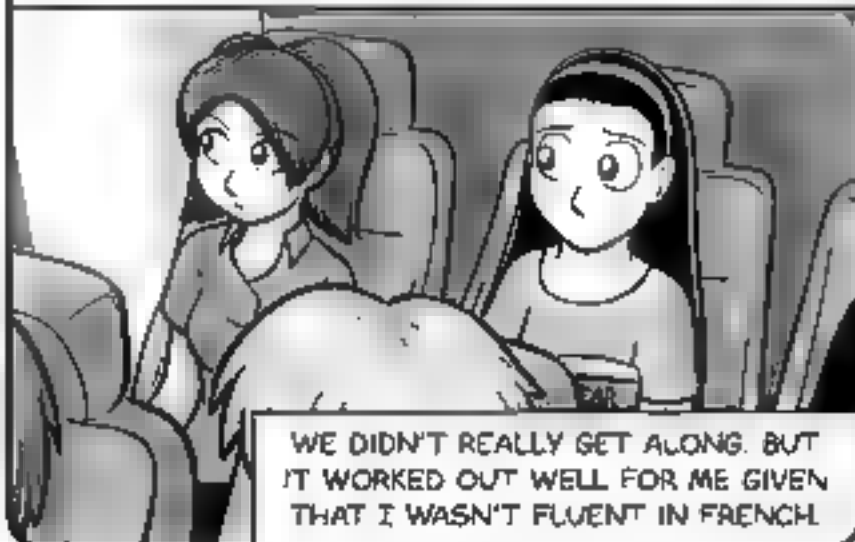


WELL, IT'S FOR OLDER STUDENTS, AND I'VE ONLY TAKEN INTRODUCTORY FRENCH, SO

YOU WILL LET MY DAUGHTER GO TO FRANCE!



THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT NANASE AND I GOT LUMPED TOGETHER ON ACCOUNT OF BEING THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS THERE THEY SAT US NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON THE PLANE HAD US SHARE A ROOM, AND MADE US "BUDDIES" IN THEIR BUDDY SYSTEM, MEANING WE WERE ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO BE TOGETHER.



WE DIDN'T REALLY GET ALONG, BUT IT WORKED OUT WELL FOR ME GIVEN THAT I WASN'T FLUENT IN FRENCH.

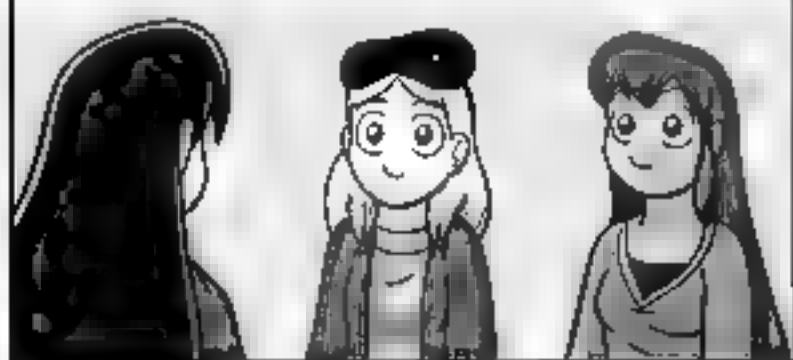
IT ALSO WORKED OUT WELL FOR ME BECAUSE IT MEANT NANASE WAS NEARBY WHEN THE MONSTER TRIED TO KILL ME



WHAT WAS IT? THE MONSTER.



IT USED TO BE HUMAN. SOME PEOPLE USE MAGIC TO TRY AND ACHIEVE IMMORTALITY BY TURNING THEMSELVES INTO PARASITES. THE IMMORTALS CALL THEM ABERRATIONS. AND...



YOU KNOW WHAT? SCREW IT IT WAS A VAMPIRE.

REALLY?!



A VAMPIRE?!

NO, NOT REALLY, BUT IT WAS A MONSTER THAT USED TO BE HUMAN. HYPNOTIZED YOUNG WOMEN AND SUCKED BLOOD OUT OF THEIR NECKS.



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I SAY YOU TWO ARE GOING TO HEAR "VAMPIRE"

THAT'S TRUE NO WONDER YOU DON'T LIKE VAMPIRE ROMANCE NOVELS.



YOU SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS "SUSAN THE VAMPIRE SLAYER"!

ANYWAY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE A NATURAL TALENT FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF SPELLS. THE MONSTER--



VAMPIRE

THE MONSTER COULD RECOVER FROM ALMOST ANY WOUND NOT CAUSED BY A MAGIC WEAPON. AND COULD SENSE PEOPLE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO CAUSE IT HARM.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME. I HAVE A NATURAL TALENT FOR SPELLS THAT CREATE OBJECTS OUT OF MAGIC. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MAGIC WAS REAL BACK THEN. BUT IT SENSED MY POTENTIAL.



IT USED ITS MAGIC TO CHARM ME AND DRAW ME AWAY FROM THE CROWD IN ORDER TO KILL ME

AT WHICH POINT NANASE CLOBBERED IT I SNAPPED OUT OF ITS CHARM. AND WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE



WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW INCREDIBLY PARANOID AND STUPID IT WAS.

PARANOID
AND STUPID?



BUT YOU HAD THE
POTENTIAL TO BE ABLE
TO KILL IT IT COULDN'T
KNOW NANASE WOULD
HELP YOU GET AWAY

THE *POTENTIAL* NOT THE
CAPACITY WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
IT EXISTED BEFORE IT TRIED TO
KILL ME AND IT ATTACKING ME IS
WHAT LED TO US GETTING MAGIC
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

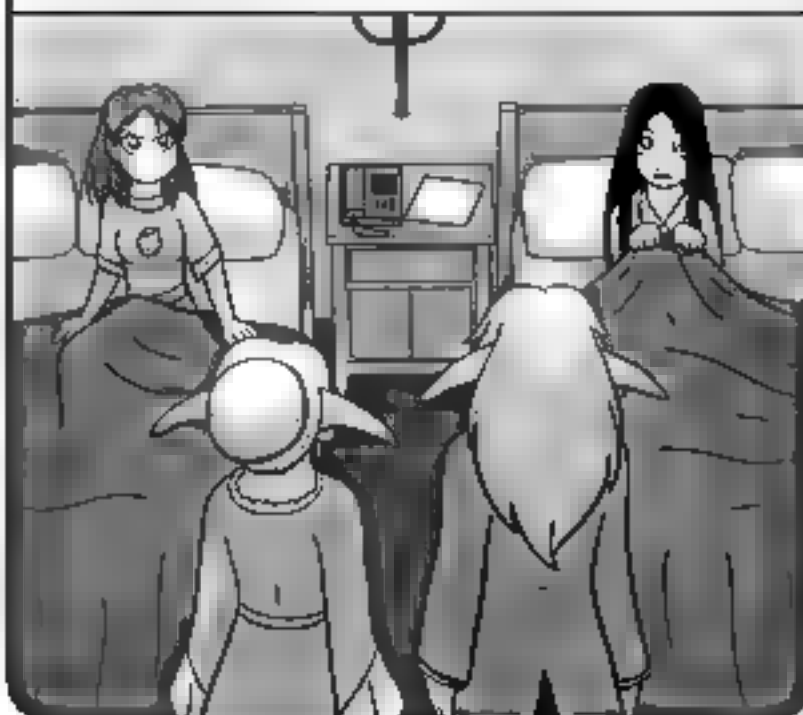


THE SMARTEST
THING IT COULD HAVE
DONE WAS *NOTHING!*

WE MADE THE MISTAKE OF
TELLING SOME OF THE OTHERS
THAT A VAMPIRE HAD ATTACKED
ME INSTEAD OF BEING MORE
VAGUE ABOUT IT THEY DISMISSED
US AS BEING STUPID FRESHMEN
MAKING STUFF UP

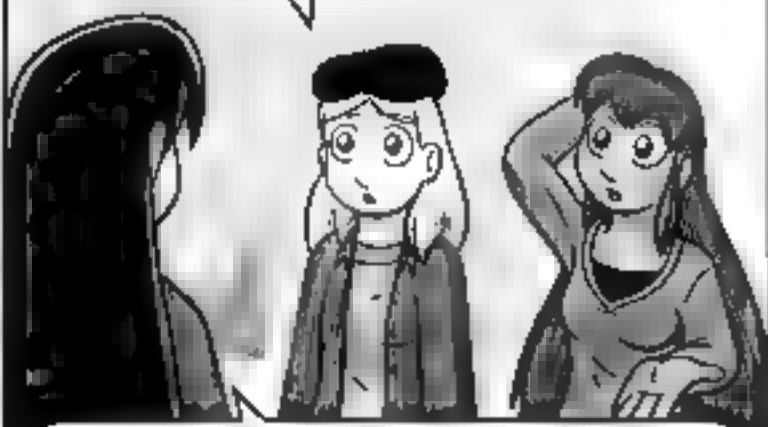


LATER THAT NIGHT TWO ELDERLY IMMORTALS
APPEARED BEFORE US IN OUR HOTEL ROOM.



WHAT EXACTLY ARE IMMORTALS. ANYWAY?
ISN'T THAT ANYTHING THAT LIVES FOREVER?

CAN IMMORTALS
EVEN BE "ELDERLY"?



LOOK I DON'T KNOW THEY'RE ELVES OR
FAIRIES OR SOMETHING ALL I KNOW IS THEY
LOOKED OLD AND HAD POINTY EARS AND MAGIC

THEY TOLD US OF MAGIC. ABERRATIONS. AND WHY I HAD BEEN
TARGETED. THEY ALSO TOLD US THE MONSTER WAS LIKELY TO
TRY TO KILL ME AGAIN. AND HOW IT WOULD GO ON TO MOLEST
AND KILL COUNTLESS WOMEN OVER THE YEARS IF ALLOWED TO
LIVE. THEY WANTED TO GIVE US THE POWER TO STOP IT



WE AGREED



IN NANASE'S CASE ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS AWAKEN THE POWER SHE'D ALREADY BEEN BUILDING THROUGH HER MARTIAL ARTS.

IT TOOK LESS THAN A MINUTE TO GIVE HER A SPELL BOOK AND POWER.



IN MY CASE THE BEST THEY COULD DO WAS GIVE ME ACCESS TO ONE SPELL THAT FIT WITH MY INNATE TALENTS.



THEY HAD TO LEAVE A MARK TO GIVE ME THE SPELL. BUT IT COULD BE OF ANY SHAPE SO LONG AS IT COVERED THE RIGHT SURFACE AREA. I CHOSE THE SYMBOL FOR VENUS ON MY BACK.

YOU HAVE THE SYMBOL FOR VENUS TATTOOED ON YOUR BACK?

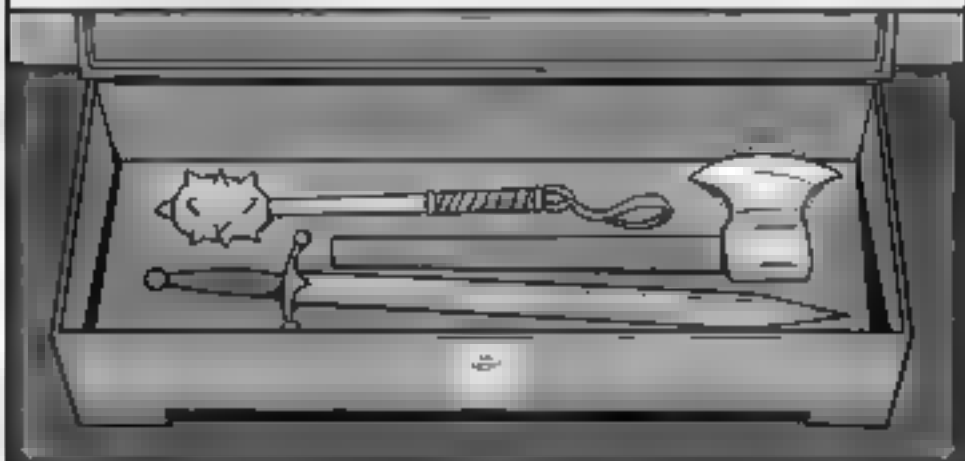
IT'S MORE LIKE A BIRTHMARK.

CAN WE SEE IT?

HELL, NO



THE SPELL ALLOWED ME TO SUMMON MAGIC VERSIONS OF OBJECTS KEPT WITHIN ANY STORAGE I COULD MARK WITH THE SYMBOL ON MY BACK. ONLY ONE MARK CAN WORK AT A TIME AND THEY STOP WORKING IF I DON'T REFRESH THEM EVERY SO OFTEN.



THEY HAD ME PAINT THE MARK ON A CHEST THEY WOULD HIDE AWAY. IT CONTAINED A SWORD, A MACE AND AN AXE.

I CAN ONLY SUMMON ONE THING AT A TIME AND THEY VANISH IF STRUCK WITH MUCH FORCE. GIVEN NEWTON'S THIRD LAW OF PHYSICS, YOU CAN GET ONE GOOD HIT IN WITH A SUMMONED WEAPON. ONE GOOD HIT WITH A PURE MAGIC WEAPON COULD KILL THE MONSTER. SO THE IDEA WAS THAT I WOULD ARM NANASE.



NANASE COULD EASILY BE DISARMED AND I COULDN'T GIVE BOTH OF US WEAPONS. SO THEY TAUGHT US HOW TO USE THE HAMMERS. THE HAMMERS CAN ONLY STUN, EVEN AGAINST THE MONSTER, BUT THEY WERE STILL A HUGE HELP.



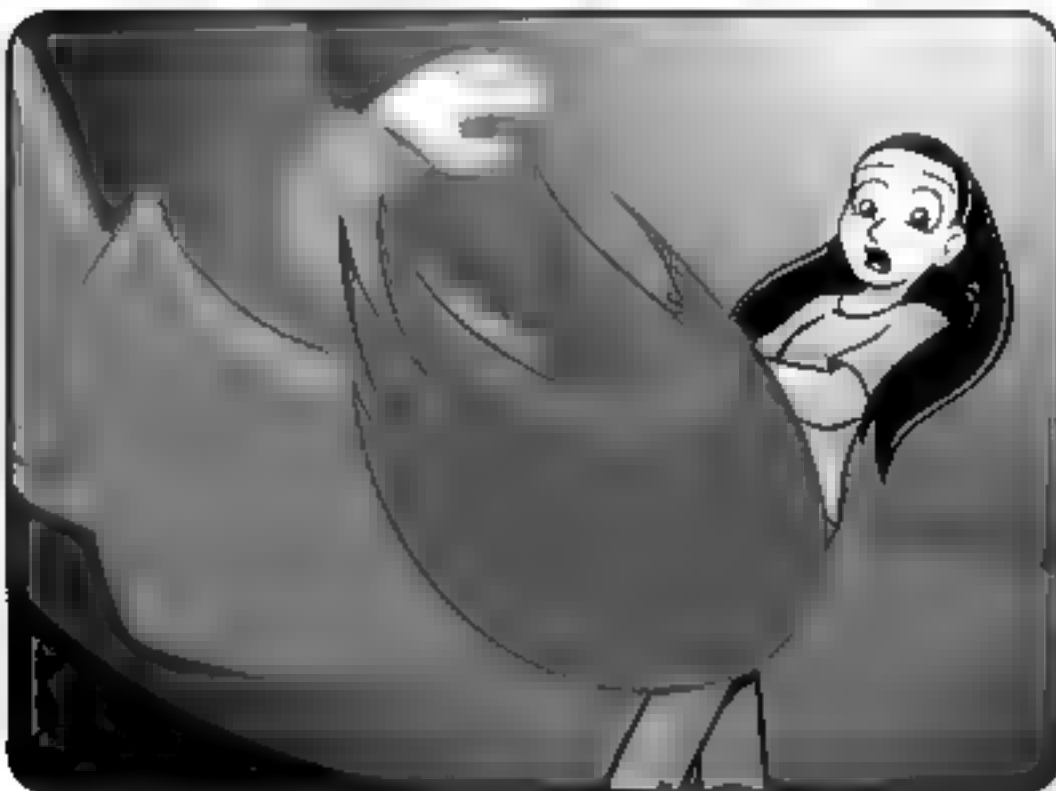
WE WERE ASSURED THAT I COULD NOT EASILY BE MESMERIZED A SECOND TIME AND THAT NANASE WAS IMMUNE. I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS GAY OR JUST HAD MAGIC RESISTANCE. BUT I HONESTLY SUSPECTED THE FORMER.

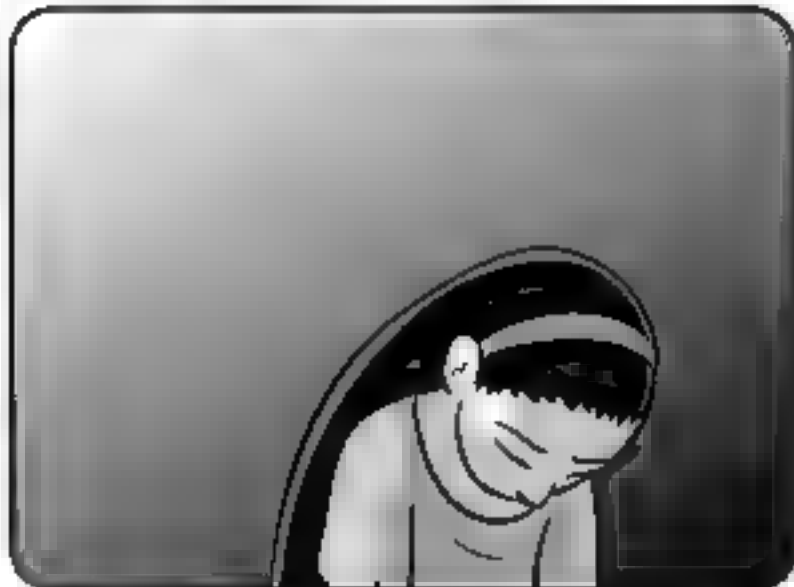


THE NEXT DAY PROVED UN-EVENTFUL BUT WE SNUCK OUT IN THE EVENING AND WERE GUIDED TO THE MONSTER BY THE IMMORTALS.



AND THAT'S WHEN NANASE KILLED THE VAMPIRE?









WHAT'S
IT DOING?

I THINK
IT'S GETTING MY
CELL PHONE

SHE'S
RANSACKING
SUSAN'S
PURSE.



HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

I JUST .. HANG ON. I NEED TO
MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T DOING
ANYTHING WEIRD TO NANASE



HELLO?

NANASE ARE
YOU OKAY?

YEAH. I'M FINE.
IS SOMETHING
WRONG?



I DON'T THINK SO. IT'S JUST
THAT I SUMMONED A MAGIC
COPY OF YOUR FAIRY DOLL
FROM MY TREASURE CHEST
AND IT'S FLYING AROUND AND
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALIVE.



YOU'RE KIDDING

I'M NOT AND IT GOT MY
CELL PHONE WHEN I WANTED
TO CALL YOU I SOMEHOW
KNEW WHAT IT WAS DOING.
BUT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY TELL
IT TO DO ANYTHING.



NANASE?

SORRY I'M JUST FEELING KIND
OF BLINDSIDED BY THIS. THAT..
SOUNDS A LOT LIKE MY CLONE
SPELL. I THINK IT'S RUNNING
OFF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS



I'VE SUMMONED A FAIRY
VERSION OF YOU THAT ACTS
OUT MY SUBCONSCIOUS.

SOUNDS
LIKE IT

WHAT
THE HELL.

SERIOUSLY

LISTEN. NANASE. I HAVE TO GO BUT DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING SATURDAY? I COULD SHOW YOU THE FAIRY AND MAYBE DO SOME SOCIAL... STUFF, OR WHATEVER.

OKAY GOOD.
GLAD YOU'RE
OKAY BYE

SO I GUESS YOU'LL BE UNSUMMONING THAT FAIRY PRETTY QUICKLY HUH?

WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT?

FOR ONE THING I THINK IT'S TRYING TO HIDE YOUR FEELINGS BY HIDING IN YOUR HAIR.

TRUE AS THAT MAY BE. I WANT TO SEE HOW LONG IT CAN STICK AROUND I'LL UNSUMMON IT BEFORE BED IF IT'S STILL HERE.

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO OPEN UP EMOTIONALLY AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU KNOW?

NO, BECAUSE IN SPITE OF LOGIC TO THE CONTRARY SARAH'S WORRIED THAT SOME UNSPEAKABLE EVIL MIGHT BE WAITING OUT THERE IF I CAN GET ENOUGH FEEDBACK FROM THE FAIRY TO KNOW WHAT IT'S SEEING WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE IT TO SAFELY SCOUT AHEAD.

YOU CARE ENOUGH ABOUT SARAH TO PUT YOUR CAREFULLY GUARDED EMOTIONS ON DISPLAY LIKE THAT? THAT'S SO SWEET!

THANK YOU, SUSAN!

IT'S JUST GOOD.
STRATEGY

THEN WHY IS THE FAIRY HUG--

STRATEGY

A couple hours later

AND HERE I THOUGHT
YOU'D NEVER EAT AGAIN.

NOM
NOM
NOM

GUYS? I'VE BEEN THINKING AND WITH GRACE
GROWING UP IN A LAB AND YOU GETTING MAGIC
SO YOU COULD. UM, NOT DIE, I'M WORRIED THAT
TALKING ABOUT MY MAGIC ENVY EARLIER MIGHT
HAVE BEEN INSENSITIVE ..

YES. YES
IT WAS.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD
ABOUT IT YOUR FEELINGS ARE
NATURAL. AND YOU WERE
BEING HONEST WITH YOUR
FRIENDS. IF WE CAN'T HANDLE
THAT THAT'S OUR PROBLEM.

ESPECIALLY THE HAMMERS. PEOPLE
MAKE FUN OF ME IGNORE THE
ISSUES I BRING UP THE SEXIST
SCHOOL UNIFORMS GO AWAY
BECAUSE OF LAUNDRY INSTEAD
OF THE SEXISM.

BESIDES. WHILE I DON'T LIKE
HOW I GOT MY MAGIC I ADMIT
TO LIKING THE MAGIC ITSELF

BUT THE HAMMERS
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ON MY SIDE
AND SO HAVE YOU I THINK IT
WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU SAFELY
GOT MAGIC SOMEDAY

OH, WHAT THE HELL? WHAT PART OF
MY SUBCONSCIOUS DO YOU REPRESENT MY
DRUNK HIPPIE SIDE? BECAUSE I WILL DROWN
YOU IN CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO.

THAT WOULD ONLY
MAKE IT STRONGER.

WHAT ABOUT
YOU GRACE? ARE
WE GOOD?

NOM? SORRY I
SPACED OUT THIS
PIZZA IS GREAT

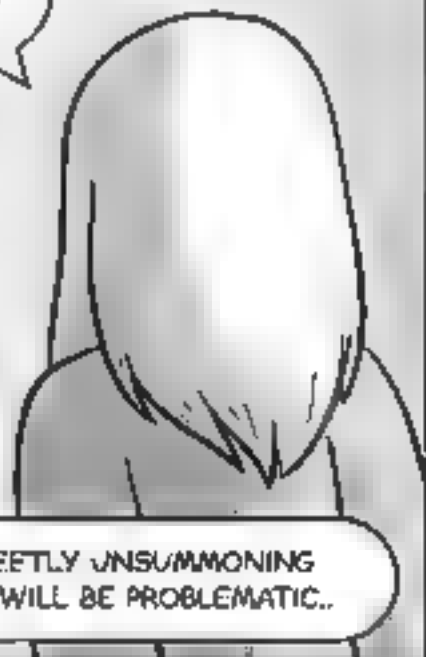
YEAH. WE'RE GOOD

A bit later, Susan unsummons the fairy

**KRAK-
A-
BOOM**



SUSAN! ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT?!



DISCREETLY UNSUMMONING
FAIRIES WILL BE PROBLEMATIC..

I ASSUME THAT'S GRACE



HUH? OH, YEAH. SHE
WAS ABOUT TO MORPH
WHEN YOU.

SQUEAK!



OH, MY GOD.



YOU'RE
ADORABLE!

SARAH, THAT'S
STILL GRACE

AND? A REAL SQUIRREL
WOULD ATTACK ME IF I
TRIED TO HOLD IT SO
CUTE! SCRATCHIES!



I'M GOING
TO BED.

I WILL HUG YOU
AND SQUEEZE YOU AND
CALL YOU GRACE.





.. WHY DID I ASSUME WE'D BE STICKING TO AN OFFICIAL PARK TRAIL?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU WOULD ASSUME A HIDDEN CAVE WOULD BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE

YEAH, ABOUT THAT ARE YOU SURE WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY? YOU KEEP MAKING WEIRD TURNS

I HAVE GPS COORDINATES FOR THE CAVE AND A SMART PHONE SO YES I AM, AND WE'RE ALMOST THERE AS FOR THE "WEIRD TURNS" WE'RE IN A FOREST THE FAIRY IS HELPING ME AVOID THICK BRUSH, SUDDEN SLOPES, HAZARDOUS WILDLIFE

OH

WHAT?

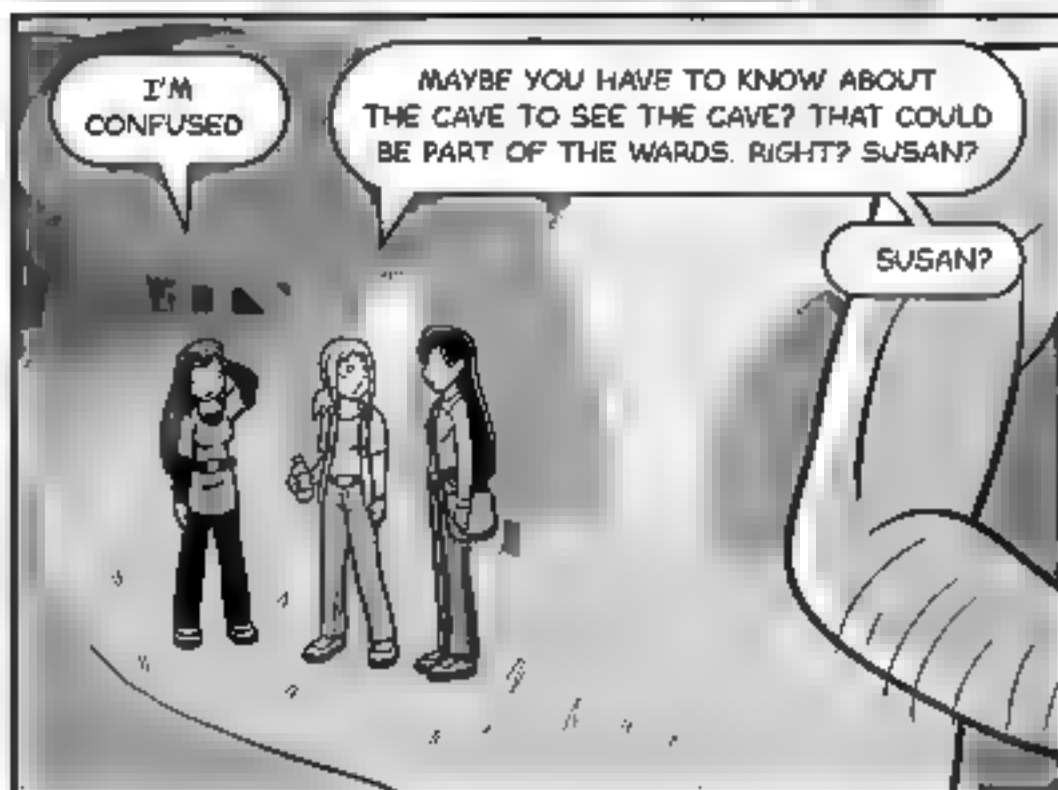
TROUBLE?

JH NO IT'S JUST THAT WELL.. WE'RE ABOUT TO CROSS AN OFFICIAL PARK TRAIL

OKAY IN RETROSPECT WE COULD'VE TAKEN A MUCH EASIER PATH TO GET THIS FAR, BUT TO BE FAIR MY PHONE DOESN'T SHOW PARK TRAILS AND I'M NEW TO NAVIGATING BY FAIRY SO..

IS THAT THE CAVE?

SON OF A BITCH.







SOMETHING'S COMING!



WSSSH

I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY FRIENDS!



I WASN'T GOING TO HURT YOUR FRIENDS.



YOU WEREN'T?



NO! I'M A FRIENDLY JOLLY FAT GUY SEE? I'VE GOT A BELLY AND EVERYTHING, LIKE JACKIE GLEASON, OR SANTA CLAUS!



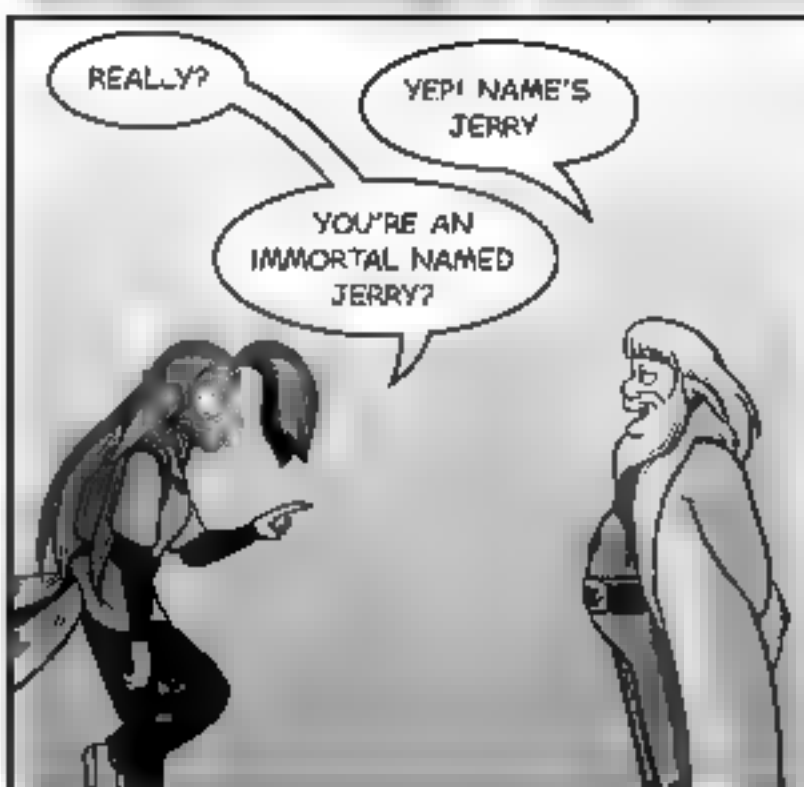
WHO THE HELL IS SANTA CLAUS?



GRACE, I THINK HE'S THE IMMORTAL WHO MADE THE ARTIFACT

SANTA?

NO HIM, EVEN IF HE WANTED TO HURT US, HE CAN'T WITHOUT PISSING OFF THE REST OF THE IMMORTALS UNLESS WE ATTACK FIRST



REALLY?

YEP! NAME'S JERRY

YOU'RE AN IMMORTAL NAMED JERRY?



HEY YOU SHOULD BE GLAD I'M A JERRY! MOST IMMORTALS GO FOR ELITIST NAMES FROM ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY

LET ME TELL YOU, THERE IS NOTHING MORE HILARIOUS THAN THE LEGENDARY HISSY FITS THAT RESULT FROM TWO OR MORE IMMORTALS NAMED "ZEUS" RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER



YOU'RE... WHAT?

I'VE GOT TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHT YEARS OF MEMORIES UNDER MY BELT. THE RULE OF THUMB IS TWO HUNDRED YEARS. SO I'M ALREADY PUSHING IT

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IMMORTALS DIE?

YOU GIRLS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS? I'M SORRY I THOUGHT YOU THREE HAD THE INSIDE SCOOP.

AS IMMORTALS EXPERIENCE LIFE, OUR MEMORIES BECOME CLEARER, OUR INTELLIGENCE INCREASES, AND OUR POWER GROWS. WE REACH A POINT WHERE WE'RE MORE VIRTUALLY CLAIRVOYANT WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.

WE GRADUALLY BECOME MORE BORED, MORE POWERFUL, AND LESS SANE, WHICH IS KIND OF A BAD COMBO. WAIT LONG ENOUGH, AND WE'RE LIKELY TO DESTROY OURSELVES AND TAKE A BUNCH OF INNOCENT BEINGS WITH US.

TO AVOID SUCH A FAUX PAS, WE RESET. WHO I AM NOW, MY BASIC NATURE MIXED WITH TWO HUNDRED PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCES, WILL DIE. I WILL BE REPLACED BY MY BASIC NATURE WITH MOST OF MY MEMORIES LOST, AND WILL PRETTY MUCH BE RESTARTING FROM SCRATCH.

IN ORDER FOR MY NEW SELF TO KNOW HIS LEFTS FROM HIS RIGHTS AND KEEP IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE FROM DYING WITH ME, I NEED TO DIE PROPERLY

TO DO THAT I NEED ALL OF MY POWER WITH ME, GIVEN THAT IT'S MY POWER THAT POWERED THE ARTIFACT..

NO MORE HAMMERS.

I'M AFRAID SO. MY YOUNGER SELF WON'T HAVE THE POWER TO FUEL THE ARTIFACT AND PROBABLY WON'T WANT TO. I'VE MOSTLY OUT-GROWN THE GAG MYSELF NOW AND IT WAS AN ACQUIRED TASTE TO BEGIN WITH.

GAG?

BACK WHEN I WAS A RAMBUNCTIOUS SEVENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD I REALLY ENJOYED A GOOD INAPPROPRIATE COMMENT IT WAS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY GUILT WHEN WOMEN WERE OFFENDED. HOWEVER, AND A LOT OF THE MEN FELT GUILT AS WELL.

THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION WAS TO ALLEVIATE GUILT BY GIVING WOMEN AN INSTANT PAINFUL- BUT HARMLESS COUNTERATTACK!

I KNOW IT SOUNDS COUNTER-INTUITIVE BUT I'VE FOUND MEN WHO RECEIVE SWIFT PHYSICAL RETRIBUTION FOR THEIR COMMENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS.

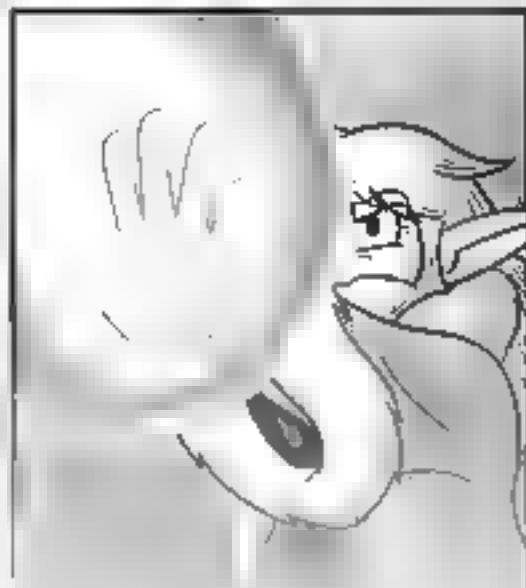
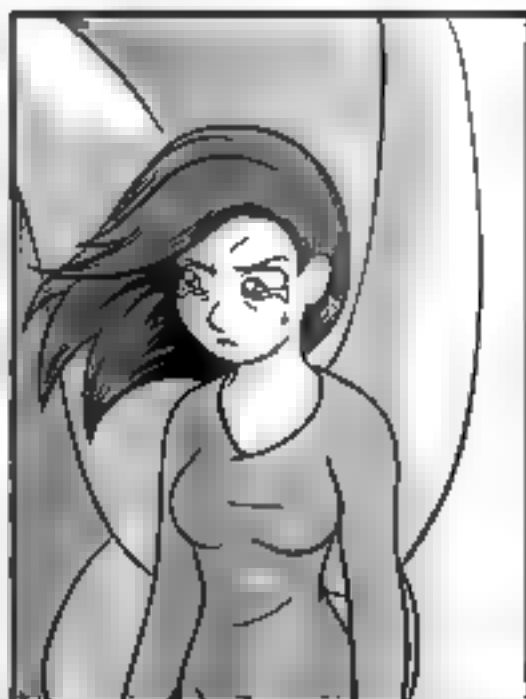
AND IT MADE WOMEN HAPPY BECAUSE HAMMERING OBNOXIOUS MEN IS GREAT STRESS RELIEF!

THE ENTIRE POINT OF THE HAMMERS WAS TO ENCOURAGE INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS?

THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT I SUPPOSE I COULD'VE JUST SUGGESTED THAT WOMEN SLAP MEN. BUT GIANT MAGIC HAMMERS SEEMED MORE

...FRIENDLY?

OH HELL.





SUSAN. ?

IS SHE
OKAY?

SHE'S FINE SHE'LL BE
A BIT OUT OF IT UNTIL
THE SERENITY SPELL
WEARS OFF, BUT THAT
WON'T TAKE LONG.

AND THE CUDDLY
ANIMALS?

TACTILE
ILLUSIONS.
ADORABLE,
BUT NOT
REAL.

SUSAN. I BELIEVE YOU ARE IN SERIOUS
NEED OF STRESS RELIEF

I HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT THIS ILLUSION
IS FUZZY

TOUCHÉ

ANXIOUS INDUCED AWAKENINGS ARE USUALLY
TRIGGERED BY THINGS LIKE MURDERED LOVED
ONES OR A VILLAGE BURNING DOWN. NOT
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER ORIGIN STORIES.

SMACK!

OW?

YOU SCARED ME!
I THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT KILL HER!

BUT I
DIDN'T AND
SHE'S FINE

I'M STILL
UPSET!

YEEESH THREE
FOR THREE

WHAT?

NOTHING!

BEFORE YOU ASK ABOUT THE HAIR, I ASSUME THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANCE TO HER DYING IT. MAGIC HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC. AND THE DYE-FLOW THEATRICALS WERE AN OVER-THE TOP EMPHASIS ON HER HAIR'S "NATURAL" HAIR COLOR CHANGING TO MATCH THE DYE.

BUT WHY DID IT GROW LONGER?

SEE "OVER-THE TOP EMPHASIS"

THIS AWAKENING ALSO MEANS YOU'LL NEED A SPELL BOOK. SO LET ME SAVE YOU A TRIP TO YE OLDE MAGIC SHOPPE! YOU'RE NOT LIKELY TO GET NEW SPELLS ANY TIME SOON. BUT THERE SHOULD AT LEAST BE ONE NEW SPELL IN HERE. AND.

POOF

The Ecology Of Anileaters (And a Cookbook)

...IT'S BASICALLY THE HAMMERS.

SUSAN CAN SUMMON THEM AGAIN?

I GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING EVEN IF OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T

IN ESSENCE YES. BUT THERE'S NO PREREQUISITE SHE CAN SUMMON VARIOUS STUN HAMMERS AT WILL AND USE THEM ON ANYONE.

EXCEPT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE HER ANGST-SPLOSION INVOLVED A NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE HAMMERS ORIGIN. HER NEW SPELL SHOULD BE ANYTHING BUT THE HAMMERS... UNLESS THEY HAD SOME OTHER IMPORTANCE TO HER.

ABERRATIONS.

ABER ? WAIT HOW EXACTLY DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE HAMMERS?

I REQUIRE ILLUSORY CARROTS.

UM, SARAH AND I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT

One epic recap later.





YOU.. BUT YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING.

IMMORTALS OWE YOU SOMETHING. I'M HERE AND HAVE POINTY EARS. MAY AS WELL BE ME.



I VOW TO BE YOUR ALLY I WON'T CONSTANTLY BE FOLLOWING YOU AROUND AND THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT I, AS AN IMMORTAL, CAN DO BUT I WILL BE OF SERVICE AS BEST I CAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY THANK YOU?



YOU'RE WELCOME NOW I'M ASSUMING THOSE TWO ARE YOUR BUDDIES AND YOU CARE ABOUT THEIR WELL-BEING?

I WOULD NEVER USE THE WORD "BUDDIES", BUT YES.



OKAY, YOU YOU'RE A SHEEP SURROUNDED BY WOLVES.

...ARE YOU CALLING ME A CONFORMIST? OR SHOULD I KEEP AN EAR OUT FOR HOWLING.

NO, I'M SAYING YOU CAN'T USE ANY MAGIC I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP



YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME MAGIC?!

MAYBE I CAN'T AWAKEN YOU AND YOU DON'T HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR ANYTHING SPECIFIC. BUT IF YOU'VE BEEN YEARNING FOR SOMETHING. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A SPELL AND GET YOU STARTED ON THE PATH TO MORE MAGIC ANYWAY LET'S SEE.



I CAN... MAKE IT SO YOU CAN TURN INTO A MAN?

EH?

I'VE GOTTA BE HONEST HERE I DID NOT CALL THAT ASPECT OF YOUR PERSONALITY

HEY NOW I'M NOT...

OF COURSE! WHEN YOU WERE A GUY AT MY GENDER SWAP BIRTHDAY PARTY YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO GIRLY ELLIOT! THIS COULD SOLVE EVERYTHING!

DON'T ASK.

I GUESS IT MIGHT HELP

WELL, MAYBE...

BUT...

BUT IT MIGHT JUST MAKE THINGS MORE CONFUSING...

IS THIS REALLY SOME THING I WANT?

WOULD ELLIOT WANT ME TO? I DON'T.. UGH.

..IT'S A QUICK FIX THAT COULD MAKE EVERYTHING WORSE ELLIOT AND I NEED PATIENCE. UNDERSTANDING. AND MAYBE SLOWING DOWN FOR A BIT NOT AN EXTRA Y-CHROMOSOME

...BUT STILL. IF IT'S THE ONLY SPELL I CAN GET FOR NOW.

I'M VERY SORRY BUT NOW I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY SPELLS.

EH?

YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU JUST SAID YOU'VE REALIZED THINGS THAT NEGATE WHAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED ME TO GIVE YOU THE SPELL IN THE FIRST PLACE

ONCE AGAIN, PERSONAL GROWTH AND MATURITY HAVE GOTTEN IN THE WAY OF A GOOD TIME

FOILED BY MY OWN BRAIN...

DON'T WORRY
SARAH YOU DON'T
NEED MAGIC

SHE'S RIGHT I WANTED TO GIVE YOU MAGIC SO
YOU WOULD BE ON A MORE EVEN FOOTING GIVEN
THE INCREASED LIKELIHOOD THAT YOU WILL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH THINGS OF A MAGIC NATURE BUT
THERE CAN BE VALUE IN NOT RELYING ON MAGIC

PEOPLE BECOME COMPLACENT AND SLOPPY WHEN
THEY HAVE TOO MUCH POWER. I KNOW THIS FIRST
HAND HAVING SPENT A FEW DECADES IN A STATE
OF SLOPPY COMPLACENCY HAVING TO APPROACH
THINGS IN DIFFERENT WAYS ENCOURAGES
INGENUITY TURNING WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTH.

ACTUALLY I MEANT SHE DOESN'T NEED MAGIC
BECAUSE MY BOYFRIEND IS A PIONEER IN THE
FIELD OF MAGIC-POWERED TECHNOLOGY AND
IS DISCOVERING ALL SORTS OF THINGS. HE
SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE MAGIC-LIKE
STUFF FOR HER

TEDD WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE
THINGS THAT DO MAGIC-LIKE STUFF FOR
ME? LIKE STUFF THAT I WANT?

HECK YEAHS, ESPECIALLY IF IT'S
SOMETHING HE HASN'T TRIED YET CAN'T
GUARANTEE ANYTHING. OF COURSE BUT
HE'D TAKE ON A GOOD CHALLENGE

GIRLS. I DON'T KNOW
WHO GRACE'S BOYFRIEND
IS, BUT THIS SOUNDS
DANGEROUS. DON'T
YOU THINK--

I'M DONE THINKING
FOR TODAY! IT'S
CAUSED ME ENOUGH
TROUBLE!

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO CONCLUDE HOW CONCERNED I SHOULD BE ONE TO TEN IT FOR ME



THREE HER BOYFRIEND KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING IN THE LAB. AND HIS DAD'S THE FORMER HEAD OF THE LOCAL PARANORMAL DIVISION OF GOVERNMENT

THE FORMER. YOU'RE DATING TEDD VERRES?!



YOU KNOW TEDD?!

NO. BUT OF COURSE I KNOW OF TEDD. HIS FATHER'S A VIP IN THE WORLD OF THE PARANORMAL.

HIS FATHER BEING AROUND IS GOOD. BUT IT COULD BE BAD IF HE HAS TO CALL IN HELP FROM THE PARANORMAL DIVISION. HIS REPLACEMENT IS FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING SECRETS THAN HELPING PEOPLE.



BUT WE ALSO HAVE YOU ON OUR SIDE, RIGHT?

YES. BUT I HAVE LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN DO BEYOND GUIDING AND EMPOWERING. AND I'M NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE AVAILABLE ON THAT SUBJECT DYING IS GOING TO PUT ME OUT OF COMMISSION FOR A FEW WEEKS.



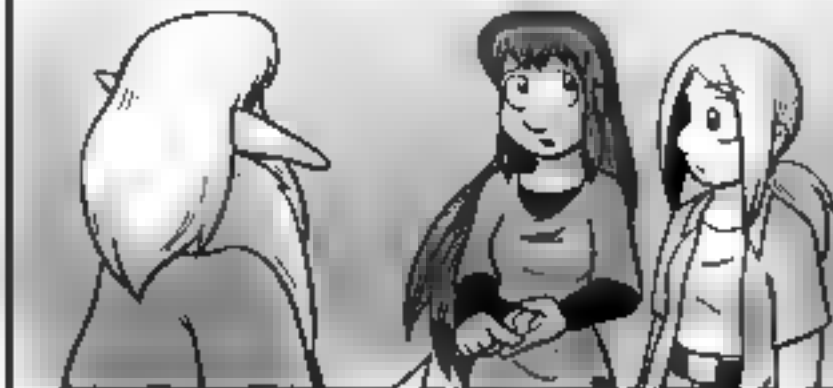
DYING IS USUALLY INCONVENIENT

LUCKILY ENOUGH BEING IN MOPERVILLE MEANS THAT THERE'S ANOTHER HIGHLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL I CAN DIRECT YOU TO IN THE EVENT OF A MAGIC-RELATED EMERGENCY AND HE'S GUARANTEED TO NOT INVOLVE VERRES'S REPLACEMENT HE'S A HALF-IMMORTAL WITH PRETTY FREE RANGE TO ACT SO LONG AS THE SITUATION INVOLVES MAGIC, AND--



YOU MEAN MR RAVEN? HE'S MY HISTORY TEACHER.

SO YOU'VE ALREADY MADE CONTACT WITH HIM.



SORTA. SARAH AND SUSAN GO TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL, AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HE KNOWS ABOUT US. WE ONLY KNOW ABOUT HIM BEING AN ELF BECAUSE NANASE WAS HIDDEN AND OVERHEARD WHEN RAVEN FOUGHT THIS WIZARD JERK WHO TRIED TO KILL MY FRIEND ON ACCOUNT OF HER BEING CREATED BY HIS ANCIENT MYSTICAL ARTIFACT



HAVE I MENTIONED I'M PART SPACE ALIEN?

...OKAY
THEN.

ANYWAY...



SUSAN, THE COLOR OF YOUR
CLOTHES SHOULD CHANGE
BACK ON THEIR OWN SOME-
TIME AFTER YOU CHANGE OUT-
FITS, BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR
HAIR COLOR WILL STAY THAT
WAY AND NEED TO BE CUT



I'LL LEAVE THAT TO A FRIEND
OF MINE. HE'LL BE THRILLED.

THAT SAID WE NEED
TO SAY OUR GOODBYES.

ALREADY?



A PROPER IMMORTAL DEATH IS A PROCESS ONE I
HAD ALREADY STARTED AND CANNOT STOP SHORT
OF DYING IMPROPERLY YOU GIRLS ARRIVED CLOSE
TO THE LAST MINUTE



I NEED TO FINISH
UNDOING THE
MAGIC OF THIS
CAVE. COLLECT MY
FINAL KNOWLEDGE
TO PASS ON. AND
END THIS LIFE

OH, BUT YOU'LL REMEMBER US
IN THE NEXT LIFE RIGHT? YOU'LL
MAKE SURE OF THAT?

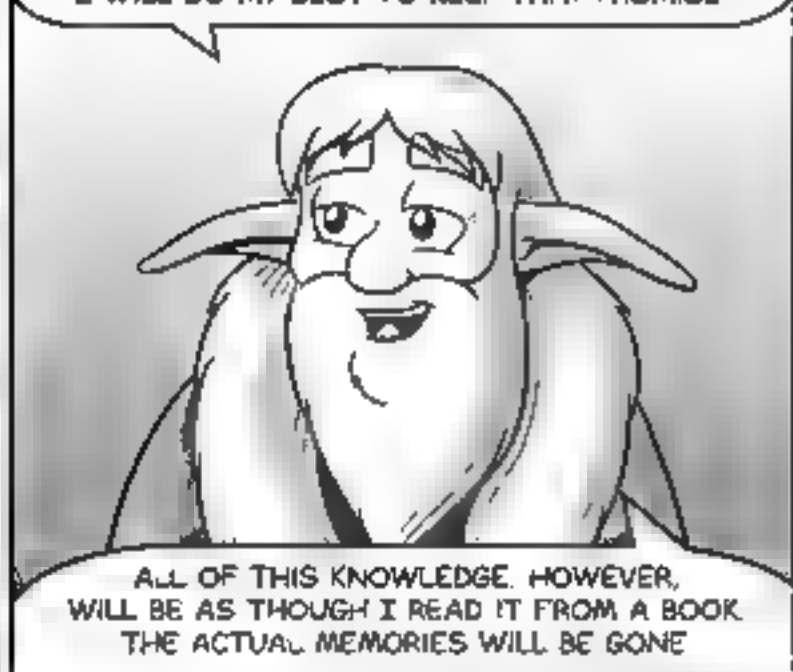


I WILL KNOW OF
YOU BUT I WON'T
REMEMBER YOU.

YOU YOU
WON'T?



I WILL KNOW THAT ON THE LAST DAY OF MY
PREVIOUS LIFE I MET THREE INTERESTING
WONDERFUL GIRLS AND MADE AN IMPORTANT
PROMISE TO THEM. KNOWING MY BASIC NATURE,
I WILL DO MY BEST TO KEEP THAT PROMISE



ALL OF THIS KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER,
WILL BE AS THOUGH I READ IT FROM A BOOK.
THE ACTUAL MEMORIES WILL BE GONE

THAT'S.. WOW

HERE ARE
YOUR BACK
PACKS

DON'T WORRY
I'LL KNOW IF
YOU MISSED
SOME THING

SUSAN?
...SUSAN!

EH?

I HAVEN'T BEEN REFERRING
TO IT AS "DEATH" JUST BE
CAUSE I'M A DRAMA QUEEN.
YOU KNOW NOW LET'S GET
ALL YOUR STUFF TOGETHER.

SUSAN HERE'S
YOUR SPELLBOOK

YOUR SPELL-
BOOK

OH OKAY

DO YOU WANT THE
ARTIFACT? IT HAS NO
MAGIC NOW AND IT
ISN'T TERRIBLY HEAVY

UH..

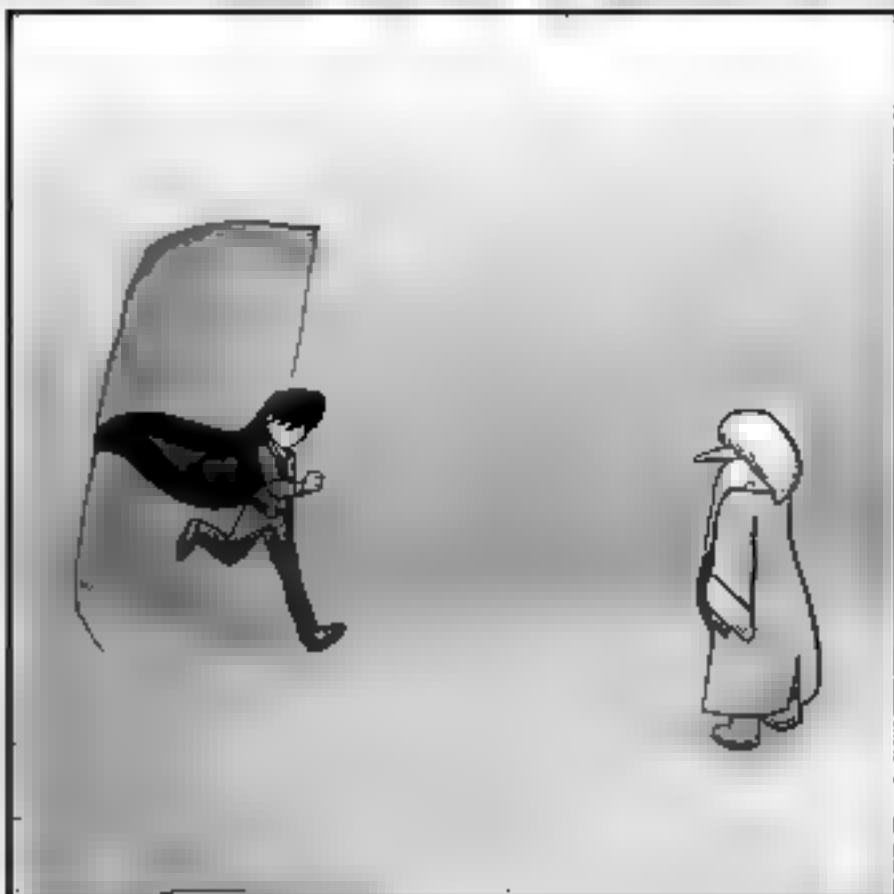
I'VE GOT IT SUSAN. DON'T WORRY YOUR FAIRY
UNSUMMONED IN THE ANGST-SPLSION. RIGHT?

YEAH. THANKS..

GOODBYE GIRLS. I WILL BE QUITE
DIFFERENT WHEN NEXT WE MEET
BUT MEET AGAIN WE WILL

GOODBYE
JERRY

GOODBYE. THANKS
AND... STUFF..



I REALLY DID HAVE NICE HAIR, DIDN'T I?

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPERIMENT WITH IT WHEN YOU GET YOUR MAGIC BACK.

IT MIGHT HAVE GROWN BACK ON ITS OWN BY THEN.

NAH, MAGIC'S GOT A DRAMATIC FLAIR AND WE LIVE DRAMATIC LIVES. YOU'LL PROBABLY GET YOUR SPELLS BACK RIGHT WHEN YOU NEED THEM.

OH REALLY NOW?

YES. YOU'LL GET THEM SHORTLY AFTER HEARING "DUN-DUN-DUN!"

HEHE.

WHAT?

DID YOU JUST TELL A JOKE? AND LAUGH?

I TELL LOTS OF JOKES.

YOU TELL DEADPAN SNARKY JOKES.

I CAN DO BOTH.

ANYWAY YOU WANT TO WATCH A MOVIE? I HAVE POPCORN AND SODA AND I WAS THINKING WE COULD WATCH STAR TREK IV?

WE COULD BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN THE FIRST THREE.

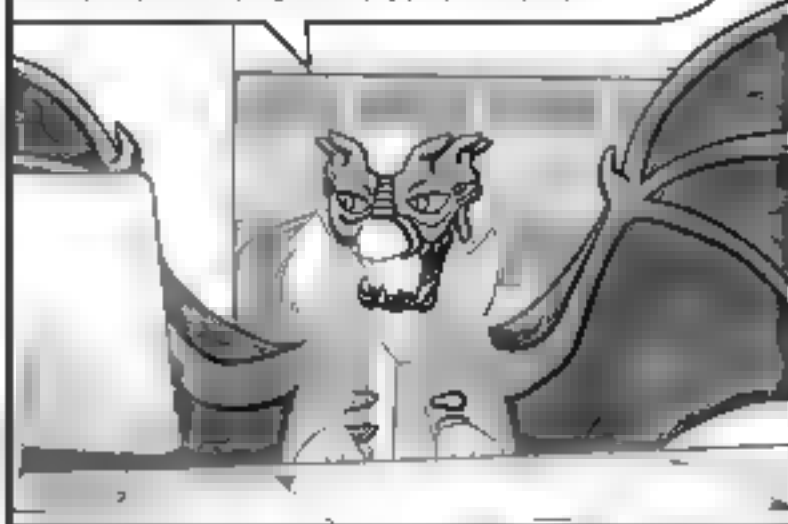
...ARE YOU UP FOR A MARATHON?

...OKAY BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE MAKING A SAD PUPPY FACE.

THERE YOU ARE!

I MENTIONED I CAN USE THE HAMMERS ON ANYONE NOW RIGHT?

THE ABANDONMENT OF THIS WRETCHED HOST CANNOT HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH... I CANNOT EVEN TAKE A BREAK FROM THIS BRAINDEAD HEAP...



MY HEART WEEPS FOR YOU SIRLECK.



MAGLIS?!

YOU--I DID EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME TO! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH I HAD TO BRIBE THAT SECURITY GUARD?!

THINGS DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED.



EVERYTHING ON MY END DID! YOU AND THAT DAMNED IMMORTAL OF YOURS CAN'T BLAME ME IF YOU TWO COULDN'T--

I'M NOT WITH HER ANYMORE

YOU'RE NOT?

NO



THEN KINDLY GET THE HELL OUT I HAVE MILLIONS TO EMBEZZLE FOR MY NEXT HOST, AND I STILL NEED TO SELECT PROPER CARIBBEAN PARTY MUSIC FOR MY SECRETARY TO DANCE TO DURING LUNCH.

OOH, THAT'S A NICE ONE...



PLEASE SIRLECK. I CAN OFFER YOU GREAT REWARDS IF YOU'LL JUST HELP ME DISTRACT TWO IMMORTALS.

AN ABERRATION DISTRACTING IMMORTAL-S? LET'S SEE, DO I FEEL LIKE BEING SACRIFICIAL BAIT? NO, I DON'T THINK I DO. PISS OFF.

OFF.

BUT



THEY'RE YOUNG IMMORTALS WHO DIED IMPROPERLY. THEY BARELY KNOW THEIR ASSES FROM HOLES IN THE GROUND, IF THAT.



PERHAPS YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH MY VERNACULAR. "PISS OFF" IMPLIES THAT I WISH FOR YOU TO LEAVE, AND PREFERABLY INJURE YOURSELF.

IMMORTALS SEE BODY SNATCHERS AS THE WORST VARIETY OF ABERRATIONS, AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN DEALING WITH THEM, BE THEY FLEDGLINGS OR NOT.



YOU WOULDN'T BE! YOU WOULD USE YOUR RESOURCES TO MAKE A DISTRACTION BUT YOU WOULD SAFELY BE WITH ME

THAT'S FUNNY I DISTINCTLY RECALL YOU SAYING YOU "JUST" NEED A DISTRACTION.



OKAY SO THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT BUT MY POINT IS THAT THEY'RE WEAK IMMORTALS AND YOU WOULDN'T BE DEALING WITH THEM DIRECTLY ANYWAY

I ONLY HELPED YOU BEFORE BECAUSE THAT ANCIENT CRAZY IMMORTAL WAS WITH YOU. I HAVE NO REASON TO LISTEN TO YOU NOW.



OH YES YOU DO.

REALLY? AND WHAT REASON IS THAT?

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T HURT ME I NEVER SLEEP OR RUN OUT OF BREATH. AND I HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN FOLLOW YOU AROUND AND INCESSANTLY BABBLE ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.



I WILL LISTEN.

TO MY PLAN OR INCESSANT BABBLING?

YOUR PLAN, SO BOTH.



One plan rundown later

...YOUR PLAN WOULD WORK. THE ONE FATAL FLAW IS THAT I HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN AND A GREAT DEAL TO LOSE FROM HELPING YOU.



MY HOST IS BRAINDEAD. WITHOUT ME, THIS BODY WILL DIE, AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO REVIVE IT. I NEED TO CONVERT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO UNTRACEABLE ASSETS FOR MY NEXT HOST TO COLLECT, I STILL NEED TO CHOOSE A SUITABLE LOW-PROFILE HOST WITH NO CONNECTION TO THIS ONE, AND ALL WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION.



SIMPLY PUT,
I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR YOU.

SIRLECK, ONCE I HAVE A BODY ON THE PHYSICAL PLANE MY POWER WILL BE RESTORED. I WILL BE A POWERFUL WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST



WHY
SHOULD I
CARE?



BECAUSE I CAN
TOTALLY HOOK YOU
UP WITH STRAW
TURNED INTO GOLD.



I'M ALREADY WORTH
MILLIONS, AND YOU'D
BE DEVALUING GOLD
IN GENERAL IF YOU
MADE MORE.



PLEASE SIRLECK. I'M A STRANGER FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE WITH NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO. AS FAR AS THIS WORLD IS CONCERNED, I DON'T EVEN EXIST



YOU'RE IT NO OTHER MORTAL IN THE WORLD KNOWS WHO I AM. NOBODY



PLEASE HELP ME RESTORE MY PHYSICAL FORM? YOU YOURSELF SAID THE PLAN WOULD WORK, AND YOU'D HAVE A POWERFUL WIZARD IN YOUR DEBT

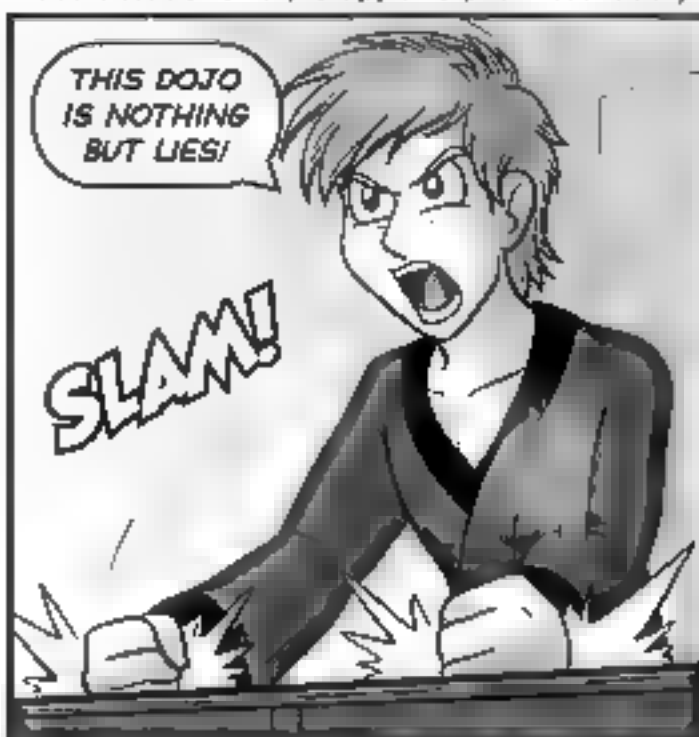
YES. LET US GET
YOUR BODY BACK



Previously on El Goon sh Shive.



Last October (Ho y crap, this predates Goo!)



Six months later Sunday evening, April 7th.





ELLIOT, WAKE UP!
WE'VE GOTTA GET
READY FOR SCHOOL.

EH?

BAH.

April 8th, Monday Morning

UM, DID YOU MORPH
WHILE SLEEPING?

YAWN

NO I MORPH BEFORE BED TO
KEEP MY MAGIC ENERGY UNDER
CONTROL YOU KNOW THAT

SO YOU WENT
TO BED WITH SUPER
HERO TIGHTS ON?

GAH!

WHAT THE HELL? I
WAS A SUPER HERO
IN MY DREAM, BUT
I WASN'T WEARING...
THIS.

HOW LONG DO
YOUR CLOTHES STAY
MORPHED ONCE YOU'RE
OUT OF THEM?

IT'S BEEN AVERAGING
ABOUT A DAY WHY?

CAN YOU MORPH UP SOME SUPER HERO TIGHTS
FOR ME ON FRIDAY? I'M PLANNING ON HAVING
NANASE OVER. AND...

FINE, WHATEVER!
JUST DON'T GIVE
ME DETAILS.



WHAT POSSIBLE REASON
COULD YOU HAVE FOR CLOSING
THE DOJO?!

FOR ONE THING YOU
THREE ARE CURRENTLY
MY ONLY STUDENTS.

Chirp
Chirp

FOR ANOTHER, I'VE BEEN
SPEAKING WITH NANASE'S
UNCLE ABOUT WHAT MY
TRAINING ACTUALLY DOES. I'VE
BEEN LUCKY WITH YOU THREE
BUT I'M AFRAID THE SUPER
MUTANT PRINCIPLE APPLIES.

THE WHAT
NOW?

ZA?

IN A UNIVERSE WHERE ANYONE
CAN BE BORN WITH UNPREDICTABLE
SUPER POWERS, THERE'S ALWAYS
THE POSSIBILITY OF THOSE POWERS
BEING DANGEROUS. BEYOND THE
CONTROL OF THE USER. AND/OR
BEING USED FOR EVIL

CORRECT! I CAN SEE THAT
YOUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITY OF WORKING IN A
COMIC SHOP HAS PAID OFF

THAT'S
MY JOB

WHILE I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE MUTANTS,
ANYONE CAN GET MAGIC WITHOUT US BEING ABLE
TO PREDICT WHAT SPELLS THEY'LL GET, SO THE
PRINCIPLE STILL APPLIES.

YOU THREE ARE
GOOD KIDS. BUT MY
TRAINING COULD
INADVERTENTLY
GIVE A SOCIOPATH
ATOMIC BREATH OR
SOMETHING.

WHILE AWESOME.
THAT WOULD BE
TOTALLY
IRRESPONSIBLE

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT I'D STILL BE HAPPY TO HELP JUSTIN REACH THE POINT YOU TWO HAVE AND GIVE GRACE PRIVATE LESSONS, AND I'VE BEEN OFFERED A TEACHING POSITION AT ANOTHER DOJO



IF ANY OF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THEIR CLASSES, I COULD GIVE YOU ALL DISCOUNTS.

THAT COULD BE GOOD RIGHT? A NEW DOJO?

EH

MAYBE



MAYBE?
WHY MAYBE?

I DON'T KNOW
STARTING OVER
WITH A WHITE BELT
AT A NEW DOJO?



YEAH. I'D NEED TO
THINK ABOUT T

I AM SORRY
ABOUT THIS.

IT'S OKAY, GREG. EVEN IF
THERE WASN'T THAT WHOLE
ATOMIC BREATH THING YOU
CAN'T JUST KEEP TEACHING
AN EMPTY DOJO



YEAH. I THINK I SHOULD'VE FOUND A BETTER LOCATION FOR THIS PLACE OR GIVEN IT A BETTER NAME "ANIME-STYLE MARTIAL ARTS" SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF POSER-DOJO THAT'S TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON A FANDOM.



IF I EVER HAVE
ANOTHER DOJO. I
SHOULD CALL IT
"REAL MARTIAL
ARTS"!

..YOU MIGHT
WANT TO HIRE
A MARKETING
CONSULTANT





END OF
AN ERA.

IF WE WERE
OLDER, I'D SUGGEST
GOING TO A BAR AND
TOASTING TO IT



WE CAN
DO THE NEXT
BEST THING.
ICE CREAM?

SEEMS
APPROPRIATE.
JUSTIN?

ACTUALLY I
THINK I'M JUST
GOING TO GO
HOME.



YOU'RE SURE?

YEAH YOU CAN
GIVE NANASE A RIDE
HOME RIGHT?

OF COURSE
BUT

THANKS.
GOOD NIGHT



WOW HE'S
REALLY TAKING
THIS HARD.

I THINK HE'S UPSET
ABOUT US NOT BEING
ALL THAT INTERESTED
IN A NEW DOJO.



YEAH, BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE HE WON'T
SEE US ANYMORE IF
WE DON'T SIGN UP

HE'LL SEE YOU
AT SCHOOL AND AT
THE COMIC SHOP
AND STUFF

AND HE'LL
SEE ME
WHENEVER
WE UM...



.. THIS WAS PRETTY MUCH
ALL WE REGULARLY DID
TOGETHER, WASN'T IT?

WELL, WE USED
TO DATE BUT I'M
ASSUMING YOU'RE
NOT DOING THAT
WITH JUSTIN.





The next day, Tuesday morning!

IT'S BEEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME AT THE DOJO WITHOUT MAGIC I COULDN'T DO MY SPECIAL MOVES. AND MAGIC WAS APPARENTLY MAKING ME STRONGER.

I CAN'T EVEN BENCH PRESS TWO HUNDRED POUNDS ANYMORE. I'M ALL THE WAY DOWN TO ONE-SIXTY

THAT'S STILL REALLY STRONG FOR A

GLARE

--PERSON

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING A BIG COMEBACK ONCE I GOT MY MAGIC BACK

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I ALWAYS FIGURED THE DOJO WOULD BE THERE FOR WHENEVER I DECIDED TO GET OFF MY BUTT AND GO.

GRACE YOU REALLY NEED TO TAKE GREG UP ON HIS TRAINING OFFER. YOU MIGHT MISS YOUR CHANCE IF YOU PUT IT OFF

BUT I DON'T WANT FIGHTING LESSONS.

BUT HE CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO COUNTER ATTACKS WITHOUT HURTING PEOPLE

ELLEN. IF ANYONE IS REALLY BAD ENOUGH WHERE WE HAVE TO FIGHT

...I'LL TEAR THEM TO SHREDS.

BUT IDEALLY WE'D YA KNOW TALK IT OVER PEACEFULLY OR SOMETHING.

SO REALLY DIPLOMACY LESSONS WOULD BE BETTER.



GRACE

I'VE GOT THIS.



SO YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE BIG BADS. YOU'RE WORRIED THAT ANY EVIL YOU PUT IN THE ASYLUM WILL BUST OUT AND HURT PEOPLE AGAIN.

BASICALLY BUT ASYLUM?



UM...

WHAT IF THEY'RE NOT EVIL? PERHAPS THEY'RE MISGUIDED OR BEING COERCED? WHAT IF THEY'RE DRUNK, OR INFECTED WITH A GIANT MALEVOLENT SPACE BUG?



I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID THAT PEOPLE WILL GET HURT OR KILLED IF YOU SHOW EVIL MERCY BUT FEAR LEADS TO ANGER, ANGER LEADS TO HATE, AND HATE LEADS TO SUFFERING.

DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE IN THAT ORDER?



WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY YOU ARE NOT VIOLENT OR A KILLER. SEARCH YOUR FEELINGS. YOU KNOW IT TO BE TRUE LEARN THE WAYS OF NOT USING FORCE

BUT



SHAZAM!

OKAY! OKAY! I'LL THINK ABOUT IT! STOP SAYING WEIRD STUFF!

YEESH. YOU HEARD ME SAY "HAVE TO" RIGHT? AS IN, "LAST RESORT AFTER ALL OTHER OPTIONS FAILED TO STOP THE SUPER-POWERFUL BAD GUY OR MONSTER"?



YES. BUT NON-LETHAL COUNTERS CAN END A FIGHT WITHOUT ANYONE GETTING SERIOUSLY HURT AND NOT EVERYONE YOU MIGHT FIGHT IS GOING TO BE A "SUPER-POWERFUL BAD GUY OR MONSTER"

OH. WAIT THAT MADE SENSE. WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT INSTEAD OF WEIRD STUFF?

WHAT WEIRD STUFF?



SPEAKING OF THAT WEIRD STUFF ELLIOT SAID HE MIGHT TRY HANGING OUT AT THE COMIC SHOP

SHAZAM?!



STOP THAT

YEAH. I'M PRETTY SURE HE DOESN'T REALIZE WHAT HE'S IN FOR. NO OFFENSE JUSTIN. I HAD FUN THE FIRST TIME I WENT BUT THE COMIC SHOP'S JUST NOT MY SCENE, AND I DOUBT IT'S ELLIOT'S. EITHER



SCENE? IT COULD BE HIS SCENE! HE LIKES SUPERMAN, RIGHT?

WE PLAY DVDS THERE I HAVE SUPERMAN DVDS. AND COMICS!

DO WE STILL HAVE THAT SUPERMAN STANDEE...?

DAMMIT, I THINK THAT'S AT THE OTHER STORE!



..WHAT?





* We assure you this is all horribly, horribly wrong



DON'T MIND HIM. HE GOES
LOOKING FOR STUFF TO
COMPLAIN ABOUT

ISN'T THAT
WHAT THE
INTERNET'S
FOR?

COMIC SHOPS
FILLED THAT
VOID LONG
BEFORE THE
INTERNET

HELLO

GAH!

I HAVE COME
FOR COMICS

OH. HEY DEX ELLIOT I NEED
TO RING UP HIS MONTHLY
COMIC ORDERS. STASH YOUR
BAG BEHIND THE COUNTER AND
CHECK THE PLACE OUT. OKAY?

SURE

I ALSO REQUIRE
POWER GIRL POSTERS

..YOU SERIOUSLY
THINK THE CLONE
SAGA WAS WORSE?!

IT TOOK YEARS!
BESIDES ONE
MORE DAY MADE
HIM A SWINGING
BACHELOR.

YEAH AND ALL IT
TOOK WAS A DEAL
WITH THE DEVIL!

FOUR-FOUR?
HOW IS IT NOT
ONE-ONE?

YOU'RE FORGETTING
LAYERS. SETS ARE LAYER 7B
AND MODIFIERS ARE 7C.

BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
STACK?

THE LAYERS ARE
IN THE STACK!

THE SHEER NUMBER OF EXPONENTIAL X-FACTORS
WOULD WORK AGAINST ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF US
EXISTING IN OTHER UNIVERSES WITH EVEN SLIGHTLY
ALTERED HISTORIES. THUS PROVING THAT *STAR TREK*
IS SUCKY SCIENCE FICTION AND I AM *SUPER SMART*

UH-HUH.

JEHOASHAPHAT! THE LATEST SUPERMAN
COMIC BOOK! I WILL SOON POSSESS EVEN
MORE MATERIAL FOR MY INTERNET BLOG
THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE STOPPED BEING
COOL AFTER THE SILVER AGE!





GEORGE UNLOCK
THE OTHER DOOR
AND GET EVERYONE
AWAY FROM HERE

'KAY

HISSTSSNI!

SIR IT'S CLEAR THAT
YOU WANT SOMETHING.
BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

HISST?

ALL I'M HEARING ARE
HISSES. IF YOU WANT ME TO
HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING.
WE'LL NEED TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO COMMUNICATE.

PERHAPS YOU COULD SOME
HOW WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU
WANT, AND WE COULD WORK
FROM THERE?

HISSTSSSSSS...

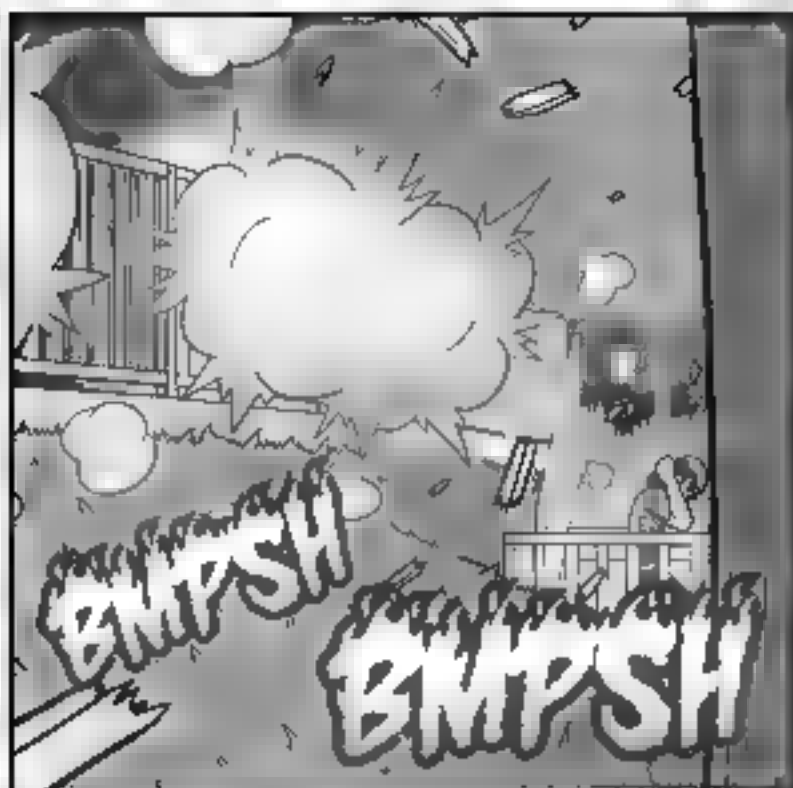


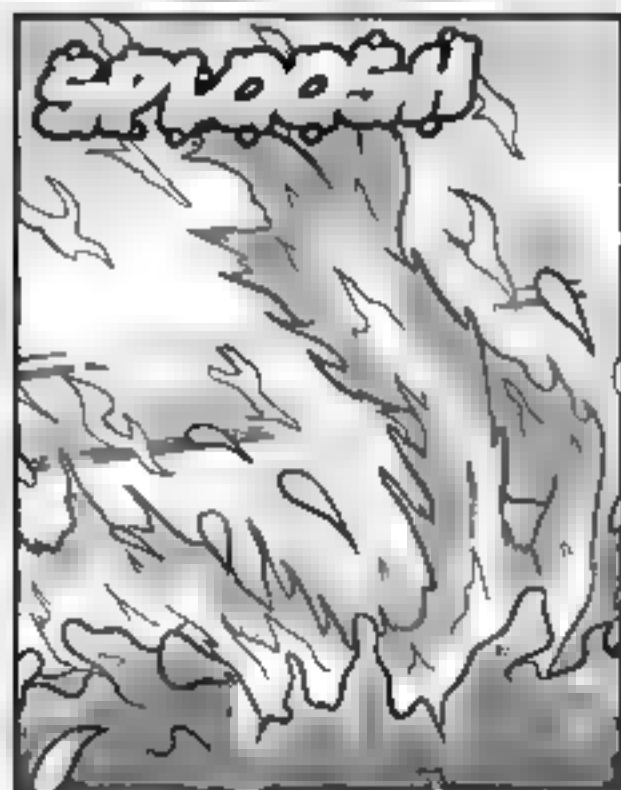


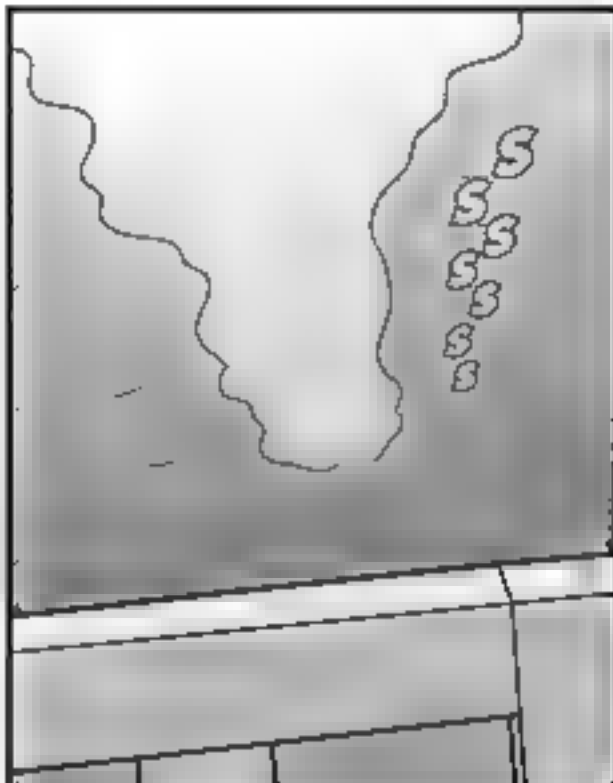


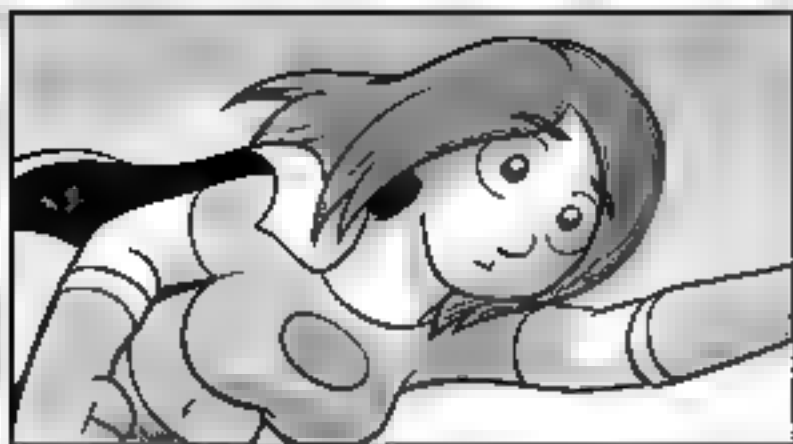












ARE YOU THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS COMIC
AND/OR GAMING PARAPHERNALIA SHOP?

I WORK HERE
PART TIME, BUT

AND WHAT EXACTLY
HAPPENED HERE?

HE FOUGHT
A MONSTER
WITH A
SUPER
HEROINE!

A FIRE
MONSTER
AND A
SEXY
HEROINE!!

THE HEROINE
FLEW AROUND
AND PUNCHED
IT AND JUSTIN
KICKED IT INTO
THE RIVER!

I THOUGHT I TOLD
YOU TO GET THE
CUSTOMERS AWAY
FROM HERE.

THEY REFUSED TO LEAVE!
BESIDES, NOT ALL OF THESE
PEOPLE ARE FROM THE SHOP

ALSO?
MY CAR!

CITIZENS, PLEASE YOU
CANNOT SERIOUSLY EXPECT US
TO BELIEVE THIS CRAZY STORY
OF HEROIC WONDERMENT

YES, WE
CAN.

VIDEO
CAMERA
PHONES.
COPPER!

MY VIDEO'S
ALREADY GOT
5,000 VIEWS ON
YOUTUBE!

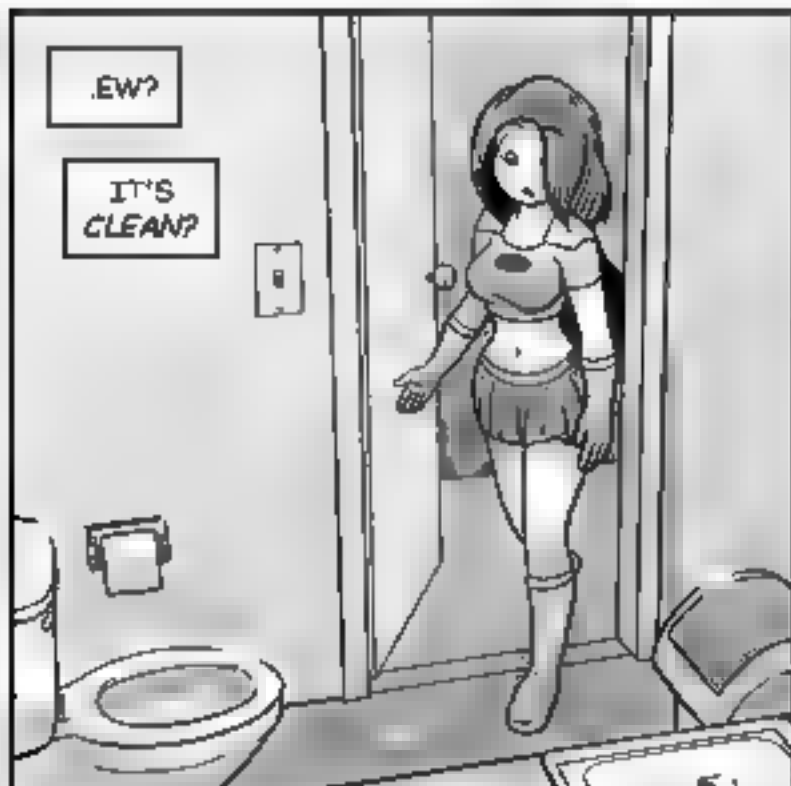
MINE'S
GOT
6,000.

JERK.

JACKASS.

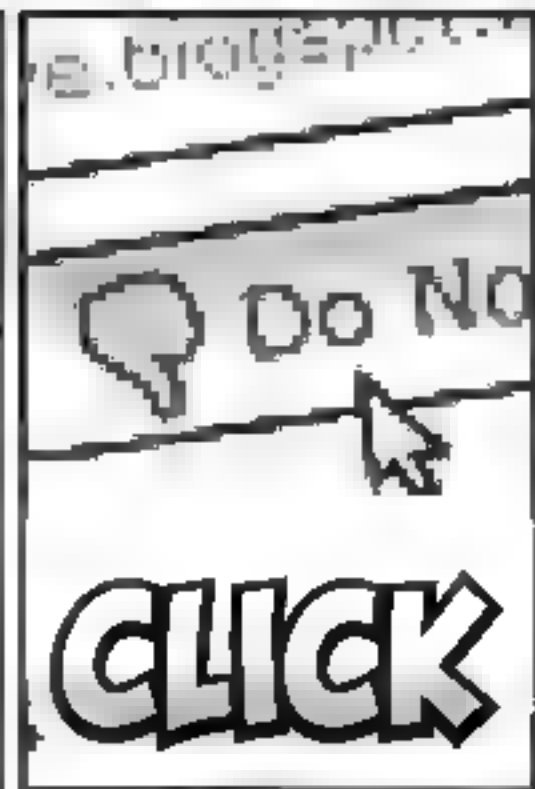
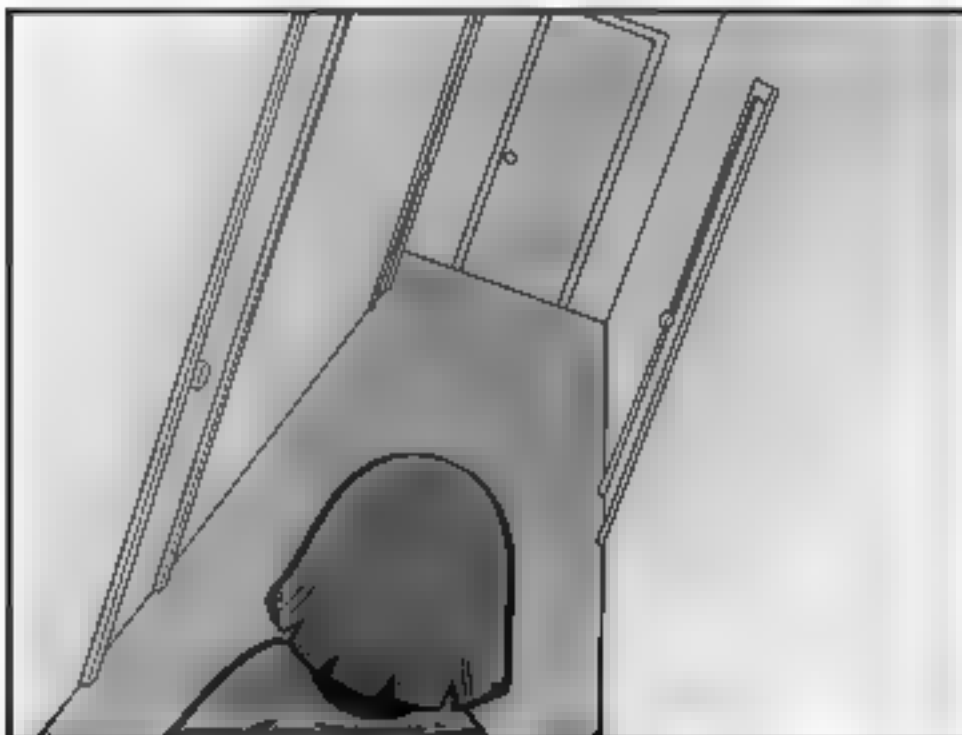
MINE'S
IN HD







Meanwhile, somewhere mysterious.





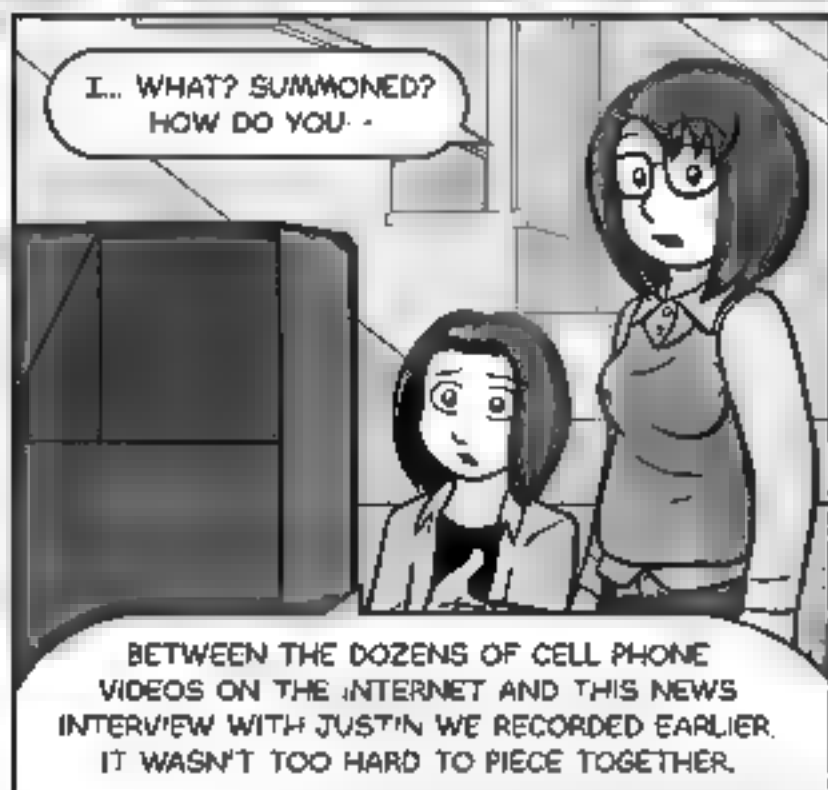
One quick journey to the front door later



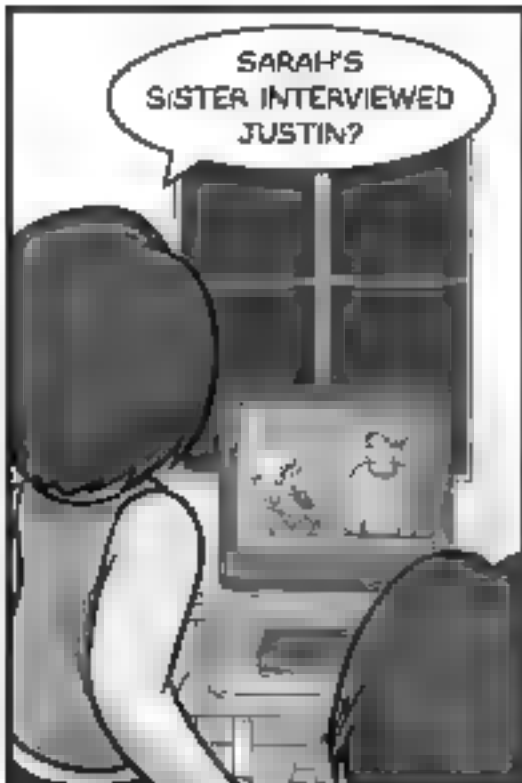




SHE'S ELLIOT HE'S THE SUPER HERO. THIS IS PART OF THE SPELL. IT DISGUISES HIM AND ALTERS HIS BEHAVIOR WHILE LEAVING HIM AWARE OF THE CHANGES AND ABLE TO BREAK CHARACTER.



BETWEEN THE DOZENS OF CELL PHONE VIDEOS ON THE INTERNET AND THIS NEWS INTERVIEW WITH JUSTIN WE RECORDED EARLIER. IT WASN'T TOO HARD TO PIECE TOGETHER.



Editor's Note

This is where there should be a character who functions as an audience proxy who is surprised by the reveal that Carol the news reporter is Sarah's older sister

Every character present however should already know this by now. We have decided to blame Kevin for this oversight

As such here's a panel featuring the moment when Elliot learned that Carol was Sarah's sister





I DON'T KNOW HER. NOT REALLY ANYWAY SHE CAME TO ME FOR COSTUME ADVICE



I WENT TO WHO FOR THE WHAT NOW?



SHE'S NEW TO THE WHOLE SUPER HERO DEAL AND HASN'T EVEN DECIDED ON A NAME YET



I SEE ARE YOU A FASHION EXPERT?

NOT REALLY BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK AND I WORK IN A COMIC SHOP THE ONLY THING I NOTICED WAS THAT THE SKIRT SORT OF LOOKED LIKE A CHEERLEADER'S.

AND SHE'S NOT GOING FOR A CHEER-LEADER THEME



I DON'T THINK SO. I MEAN--

HANG ON. APPARENTLY THE INTERNET HAS LATCHED ON TO THE WHOLE CHEERLEADER THING AND HAVE STARTED CALLING HER CHEERLEADRA.

WHAT? BUT WE ONLY JUST--

THE INTERNET IS OFTEN FAST AND HORRIBLE.



CHEERLEADRA?!



A STUPID MONIKER IS THE LEAST OF OUR CONCERNS. JUSTIN'S OUTSMARTED HIMSELF WITH HIS CLEVER EXCUSES AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE ONLY PERSON WITH ANY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO A POSSIBLE REAL LIFE SUPER HERO

WHAT EXCUSE SHOULD HE HAVE--



IGNORANCE!



HANG ON. THAT'S MY CELL PHONE

IS THAT THE X-FILES THEME?



HELLO?

MR. VEARES?
IT'S JUSTIN.

JUSTIN! WHO GAVE YOU THIS NUMBER?!



YOU DID. YOU TRIED CALLING ME LIKE FIVE TIMES.

INDEED I DID WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M ON MY WAY TO YOUR PLACE

I'VE GOT ELLIOT'S BACKPACK. AND I ASSUME YOU WANT TO TALK.

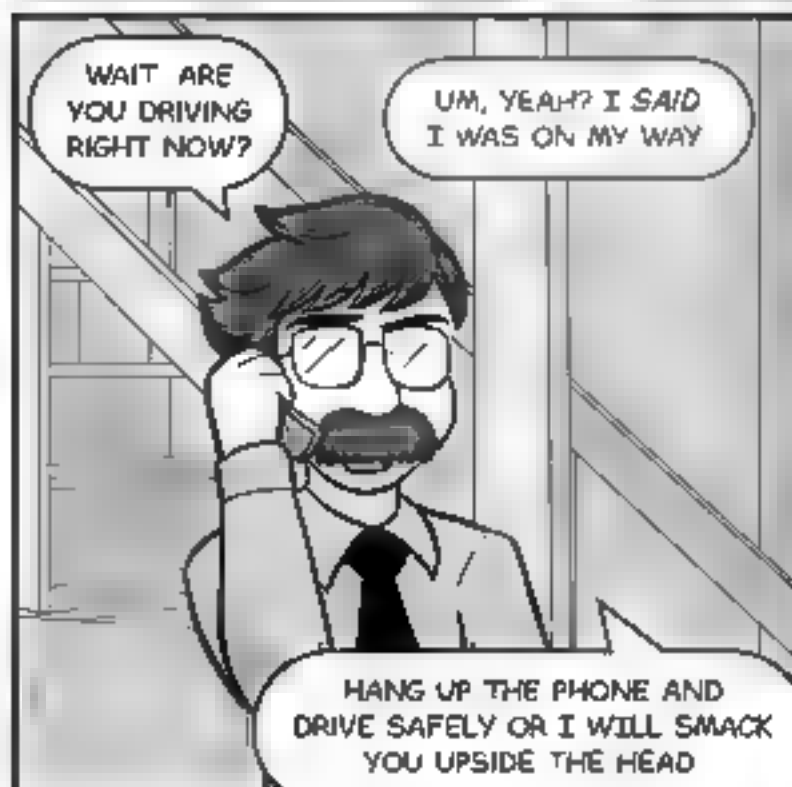


DARN SKIPPY I DO WE HAVE A WEB OF LIES TO UNTANGLE FIRSTLY WAS THE MONSTER AS LIGHT AS YOU CLAIMED ON THE NEWS?

NO I JUST SAID THAT TO COVER UP THE WHATEVER OF MY ATTACKS. DOES IT MESH WITH THE VIDEOS?



IT'S A FLIMSY EXCUSE AT BEST THE AURA OF YOUR ATTACKS CAN BE MISTAKEN AS COMING FROM THE MONSTER. BUT NERDS GOING FRAME BY FRAME ARE GOING TO KNOW SOMETHING'S OFF MOST PEOPLE WILL DISMISS IT BUT



WAIT ARE YOU DRIVING RIGHT NOW?

UM, YEAH? I SAID I WAS ON MY WAY

HANG UP THE PHONE AND DRIVE SAFELY OR I WILL SMACK YOU UPSIDE THE HEAD



LIKE I'M SCARED OF THAT AFTER KICKING A FIRE MONSTER A HUNDRED FEET INTO A RIVER.

WHAT?

NEVER MIND I'LL BE THERE SOON.

JUSTIN'S ON HIS WAY
HERE I'M GOING TO WAIT
UPSTAIRS FOR HIM. IF YOU
WANT TO SEE THOSE
INTERNET VIDEOS. NOW'S
A GOOD TIME



YOU WANNA CHANGE
BACK FIRST?



I WOULD BUT I KNOW
JUSTIN'S GOING TO WANT TO
SEE THIS FORM. SO I MAY AS
WELL WAIT UNTIL THEN.

YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THIS SUPER
HERO STUFF IS PRETTY COOL
YOU CAN FLY, YOU'VE GOT THE
PERFECT SECRET IDENTITY..



THAT MESSES
WITH MY BRAIN.

THAT'S PROBABLY JUST BE-
CAUSE YOU'RE A TERRIBLE LIAR.
BUT YEAH. IT'S ALMOST LIKE ..

IT'S TRYING
TOO HARD.

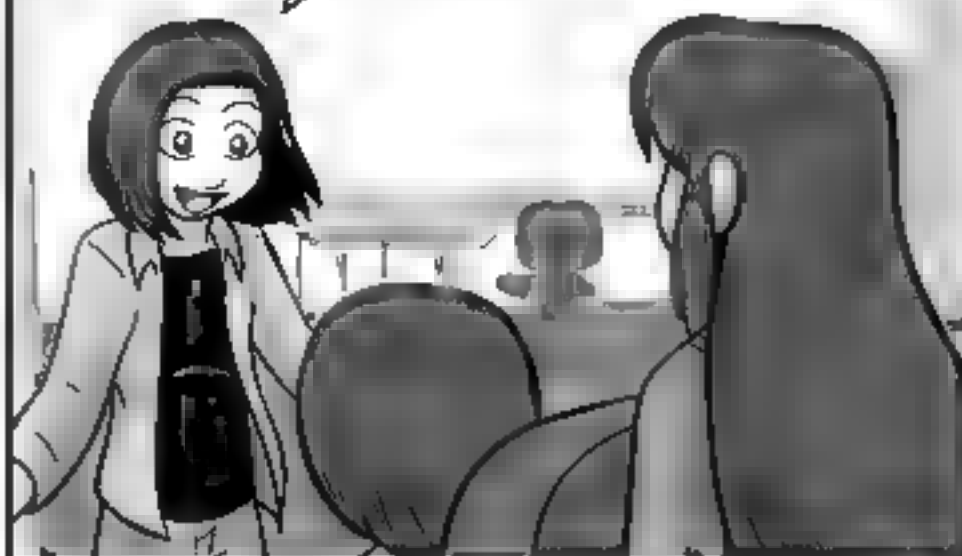


EUR-BLOODY-EKA!




THAT'S WHY ALL YOUR
SPELLS ARE GIRLY THAT'S
WHY YOU HAVE TO SPEND
TIME TRANSFORMED!

IT'S NOT ADAPTING
PHYSICALLY IT'S ADAPTING
MENTALLY! IT'S ABOUT
COMPLACENCY!

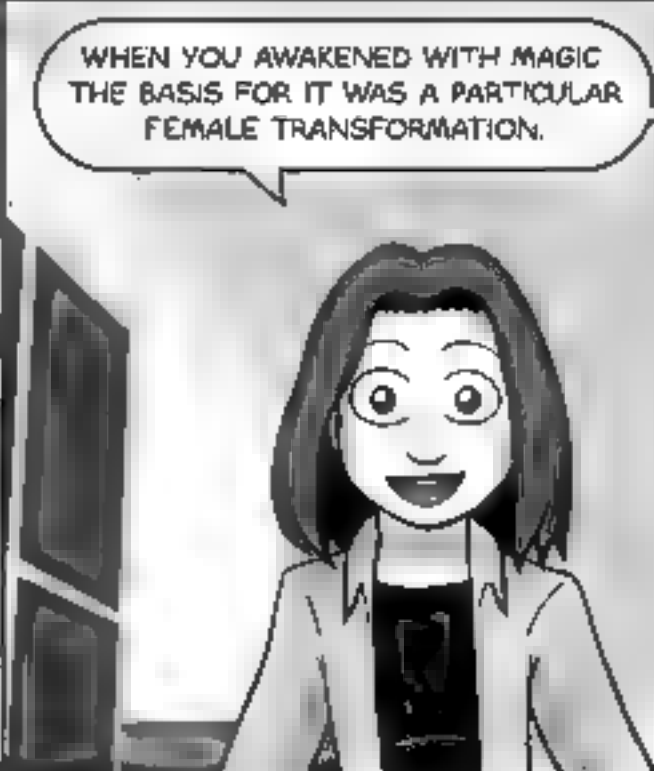


THE ONLY WAY TO STOP
GETTING FEMALE TRANSFORMATION
SPELLS IS TO LIKE THEM!



A woman with long dark hair and a grey tank top is talking to a woman with short dark hair and glasses wearing a grey dress.


YOU'VE
LOST ME

A woman with shoulder-length dark hair, wearing a grey jacket over a black top, is speaking.


WHEN YOU AWAKENED WITH MAGIC
THE BASIS FOR IT WAS A PARTICULAR
FEMALE TRANSFORMATION.

PART OF YOU WAS
IMPRINTED WITH THE
DEA THAT THAT
WAS SUPPOSED TO
BE A REFLECTION OF
WHO YOU ARE


NOW WITH EVERY
SPELL YOU GAIN, IT'S
TAKING THINGS
FURTHER AND TRYING
TO SORT OUT WHAT
IT GOT WRONG.

A woman with short dark hair is speaking to two other women.


IT KNOWS THESE SPELLS DON'T REFLECT YOU
BUT IT DOESN'T KNOW WHY! AND THE ONE
THING IT ADAMANTLY ASSUMES IT'S GETTING
RIGHT IS EXACTLY WHAT IT'S GETTING WRONG!

A woman with long dark hair and a grey tank top is asking a question to a woman with short dark hair and glasses.

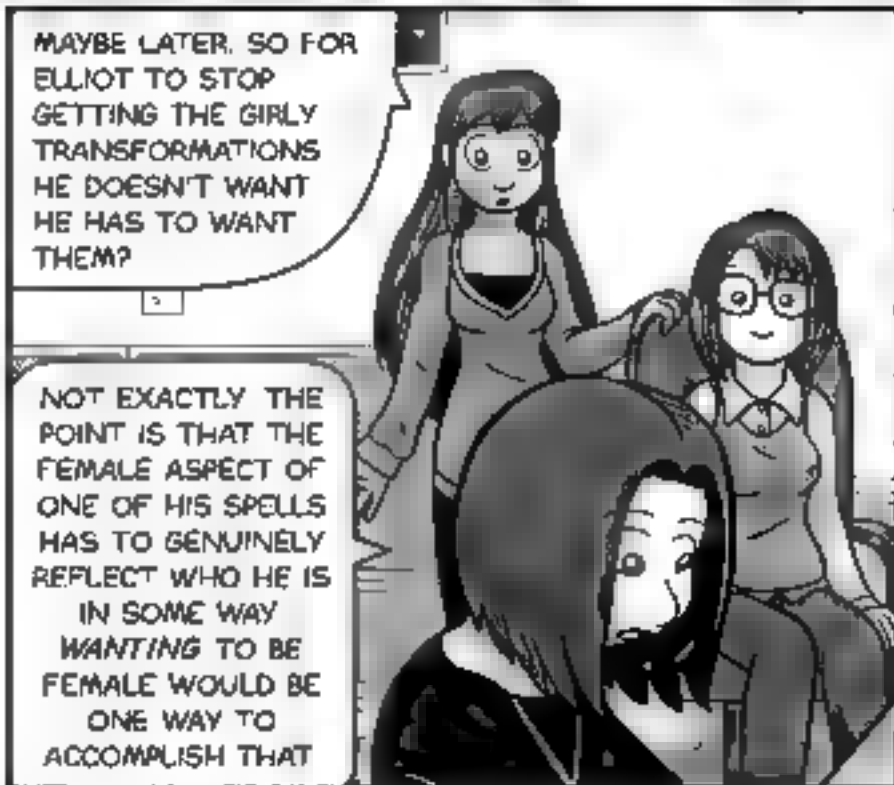
YOU'RE
SURE ABOUT
THIS?

A woman with shoulder-length dark hair, wearing a grey jacket over a black top, is speaking.

MORE SURE THAN I SHOULD BE TO BE HONEST
IT'S JUST A HYPOTHESIS. BUT YEAH, I FEEL
PRETTY CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS.

A woman with shoulder-length dark hair, wearing a grey jacket over a black top, is speaking.

I ALSO FEEL
REALLY HYPER ALL
OF A SUDDEN. DO
EITHER OF YOU
WANT TO PLAY
VIRTUAL TENNIS?

A woman with long dark hair and a grey tank top is speaking to two other women.

MAYBE LATER. SO FOR
ELLIOT TO STOP
GETTING THE GIRLY
TRANSFORMATIONS
HE DOESN'T WANT
HE HAS TO WANT
THEM?

NOT EXACTLY THE
POINT IS THAT THE
FEMALE ASPECT OF
ONE OF HIS SPELLS
HAS TO GENUINELY
REFLECT WHO HE IS
IN SOME WAY
WANTING TO BE
FEMALE WOULD BE
ONE WAY TO
ACCOMPLISH THAT

A woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey jacket over a black top, is speaking.

YOU'RE SAYING I HAVE TO ACHIEVE SOME
SORT OF TRANSGENDER NIRVANA

BASICALLY
YEAH. HAVE
EITHER OF YOU
SEEN MY HEAD-
BAND?

WELL, THAT'S EASY ENOUGH.

EASY? HOW IS THAT EASY? I'M MENTALLY MALE EVEN WHEN I'M A WOMAN. I'M A MAN.

EXACTLY YOU'RE A HETEROSEXUAL YOUNG ADULT WHO CAN MORPH INTO ANY FEMALE FORM YOU CAN IMAGINE JUST FIND A MIRROR AND BE SEXY!

DID YOU SWITCH PLACES WITH TEDD AGAIN?

I'M JUST SUGGESTING A REASON TO WANT TO BE FEMALE THAT REFLECTS AN ASPECT OF YOURSELF

BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE. I DON'T KNOW... WHAT IF I WIND UP LOOKING LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW?

SERIOUSLY I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU MORPHED INTO A LIKENESS OF ME SO LONG AS IT'S KEPT PRIVATE. WHY SHOULD I, OR ANYBODY ELSE. CARE IF YOU MORPH TO MATCH A VISUAL OF US THAT SN'T EVEN ALL THAT ACCURATE TO BEGIN WITH?

SO WHAT IF YOU DO? YOUR MORPHS AREN'T EXACT AND WHATEVER YOU'D MORPH INTO WOULD BE SOMETHING YOU'VE ALREADY PICTURED ANYWAY

FIFTEEN-FORTY! GOTTA CATCH UP TO THE DEUCE!

SO WHERE ARE THOSE VIDEOS? I SHOULD REALLY WATCH THOSE VIDEOS

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS I'M APATHETIC ABOUT THAT EVERYONE ELSE FINDS CREEPY ISN'T IT?

WE WILL NEVER SPEAK OF YOUR SUGGESTION AGAIN.

WHOA! LOOK AT ME FLY!

A few parsecs ater (AKA about ten minutes)



BEFORE YOU ASK, NO. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT THING WANTED. IT JUST SHOWED JP AND WAS A JERK.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE IT WOULD HAVE TRIED DOING ANYTHING TO ME IF I HAD JUST STAYED INSIDE

I'M BETTING THE SUMMONER DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A PLAN. A NEWBIE MAGIC USER FOUND A NEW TOY AND WANTED TO TRY IT OUT

IN PUBLIC?

WELL, YEAH. THE ONLY REASON WE KNOW THERE WAS SOME GUY HOLDING FIRE DUDE'S LEASH IS BECAUSE MY DAD'S BASICALLY DUMBLEDORE

AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED. IT WAS CONSEQUENCE FREE FUN. I KNOW I WOULD GO ON A ZAPPING RAMPAGE IF IT THERE WEREN'T ANY CONSEQUENCES.

SO WHAT YOU'D DON A DISGUISE AND RUN AROUND TRANSFORMING PEOPLE?

NO. I SEE UPSETTING AND HURTING PEOPLE AS BEING CONSEQUENCES. I'M ASSUMING THE PSYCHO PYRO WANNABE DOESN'T

SON THAT IS BOTH INSIGHTFUL AND HORRIFYING IF ACCURATE GOOD WORK. ALTHOUGH I WOULD RATHER BE COMPARED TO GANDALF

HELLO?

ARTHUR'S ABOUT TO GO ON TELEVISION. I NEVER CALLED YOU.

HE'S WHAT?!

HOLD ON. I HAVE ANOTHER CALL FROM AGENT CRANIUM?

CLICK

DAMMIT SHE COULD'VE SPECIFIED A CHANNEL.

WHAT'S UP DAD?

SIT DOWN AND WATCH.

HERE WE GO.

UP NEXT RENOWNED AUTHOR, SKEPTIC AND FORMER CONSULTANT FOR THE FBI. ARTHUR J ARTHUR WILL GIVE HIS OPINION ON THESE STRANGE EVENTS.

WAIT DO I KNOW THAT GUY?

YOU MET HIM WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER HE'S MY PREDECESSOR AND SUCCESSOR.

HE'S... WHAT?

HE IS IN REALITY THE FORMER AND CURRENT HEAD OF THE LOCAL FBI BRANCH OF PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS. HE CAME OUT OF RETIREMENT WHEN I WAS REASSIGNED

PART OF HIS STRATEGY FOR KEEPING THINGS SECRET WAS PRESENTING HIMSELF TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS A CONSULTANT

HE MADE IT SO THE MAN KEEPING THE PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS HONEST WAS ACTUALLY THE MAN IN CHARGE

THIS SOUNDS LIKE TOP SECRET STUFF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO KILL ME FOR KNOWING TOO MUCH SOMEDAY ARE YOU?

JUSTIN. AT THIS POINT YOU'RE PART OF A SECRET CIRCLE A GROUP OF EIGHT I'M WILLING TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH ON A NEED TO KNOW BASIS

..WHAT HAPPENS IF WE'RE NOT FINE?

SHOW'S BACK

DON'T BETRAY MY TRUST KEEP THE CIRCLE AT EIGHT AND WE'LL BE FINE.

..WELCOME TO OUR PROGRAM. ARTHUR...

I MUST SAY ARTHUR OR DO YOU PREFER ARTHUR?

I WAS SURPRISED YOU
WANTED TO BE ON THE
SHOW, AND THIS QUICKLY

I DO NOT
WASTE TIME

SO WHAT, AS FAR AS YOU
ARE AWARE IS THE TRUTH?
IS THERE SOME LOGICAL
EXPLANATION FOR THIS FIRE
MONSTER AND A GIRL WHO
CAN FLY?

IT WAS REAL

WHAT?

THIS OUGHT
TO BE GOOD.

THE MONSTER WAS A
GOLEM CREATED BY ONE
WHO MUST BE FOUND

THE GIRL IS A
GOOD SAMARITAN
WHO CAN FLY

WHAT WAS SEEN
IS WHAT WAS.

MR ARTHUR, WOULD YOU CARE TO ELABORATE ON THESE... ASSERTIONS?

I WOULD NOT I AM DONE HERE

DONE? WE CANCELED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR THIS.

FOR NOW MY WORDS CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT WHAT MATTERS IS THEY WERE SAID

THERE ARE THOSE WITH POWER THE MISINFORMED WOULD CALL THEM WIZARDS. THEY ARE BUT PEOPLE WITH POWER THEY DID NOT ASK FOR AND CANNOT EXPLAIN.

FOR NOW THEY ARE HIDDEN. BUT REMEMBER MY WORDS. THEIR WEIGHT WILL GROW

COMING UP NEXT JOIN ME FOR THE NEXT FIFTY-FIVE MINUTES AS I SPECULATE WHY WIZARDS WOULD BE PRONE TO OBESITY

MY WORDS. THE WEIGHT OF MY WORDS WILL GROW

THANKS. I ALMOST HAD SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

THAT WAS
BRILLIANT

BRILLIANT?!

HE CAME OFF AS A NUTCASE!
ANYBODY WHO SAYS THIS
STUFF WAS REAL IS GOING TO
BE COMPARED TO HIM. HE'S
TRASHED THE CREDIBILITY OF
THE STORY!

WHILE THAT IS A GOOD
STRATEGY IN THEORY IT IS A
BANDAGE SOLUTION THAT
DOESN'T STICK

NOT ONLY WILL IT NOT DIS-
SUADE THE MANY FIRST HAND
WITNESSES AND THOSE CLOSE
TO THEM, ANY FUTURE EVENTS
WILL ADD TO HIS CREDIBILITY

A STRATEGY THAT IS
BRILLIANT IS NOT DES-
TINED TO BACKFIRE!

SO... HE
SCREWED
UP?

WHO DO YOU THINK TAUGHT
ME THAT LESSON? WHATEVER
HIS GOALS MIGHT BE COVERING
UP THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS
INCIDENT ISN'T AMONG THEM.

DOES ANYBODY ELSE
FEEL WEIRD THAT WE'RE
ROOTING FOR COVERING
UP THE TRUTH?

WHY? DO YOU
WANT PEOPLE TO
KNOW THE TRUTH
ABOUT THIS?

NO I'M JUST SAYING IT
FEELS A LITTLE WEIRD

I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT PEOPLE IN GENERAL COULD HANDLE AND BE TRUSTED WITH THE TRUTH ABOUT MAGIC BUT THEN, I'VE MET PEOPLE



OHHEY
I THINK I'LL
MORPHBACK
NOW!



THAT WAS...
RANDOM.

RANDOM. YES.



I DON'T THINK THERE'S MUCH MORE WE CAN DO FOR NOW. IT'S LATE. ELLIOT AND JUSTIN SHOULD GO HOME. I'M SURE YOU'LL NEED TIME TO TALK TO YOUR FAMILIES ABOUT THIS.



HOW DID MY FAMILY TAKE IT
WHEN YOU CALLED THEM?

US? WE
DIDN'T CALL
ANYONE

YEAH WE
FIGURED
YOU'D CALL
THEM.



NO MY CELL PHONE
WAS IN MY BACKPACK.



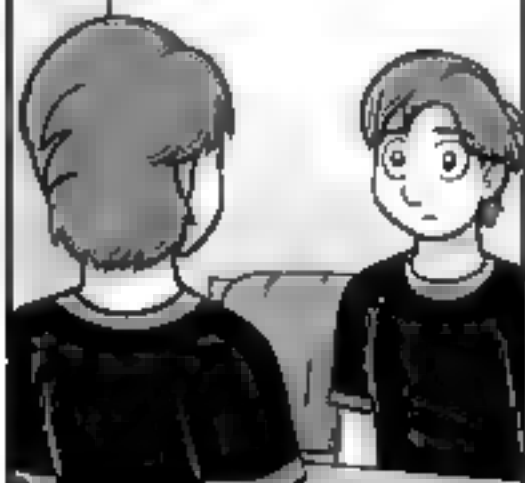
I'M NOT GETTING
ANY SLEEP TONIGHT
AM I?



One trip home, some exposition and ha f a brownie later.



OKAY . SEXY MORPHS FOR
THE ENDING OF GETTING
GIRLY SPELLS.. JUST GOTTA
PICTURE SOMEONE SEXY
AND MORPH..



WHAT, ARE YOU
TRYING TO REPLACE
ME WITH YOURSELF?



TOO WEIRD...

DUDE! NOT COOL!



SORRY!

I'M DATING
YOUR SISTER.



MOVING ON

YOU'RE DATING
MY SISTER



AWKWARD.



GAH! JUST THINK OF A
RANDOM BIKINI MODEL!

I'M A PERSON.
YOU BASTARD.



I FAIL AT
PERVERSION.

NEED SOME
TIPS?





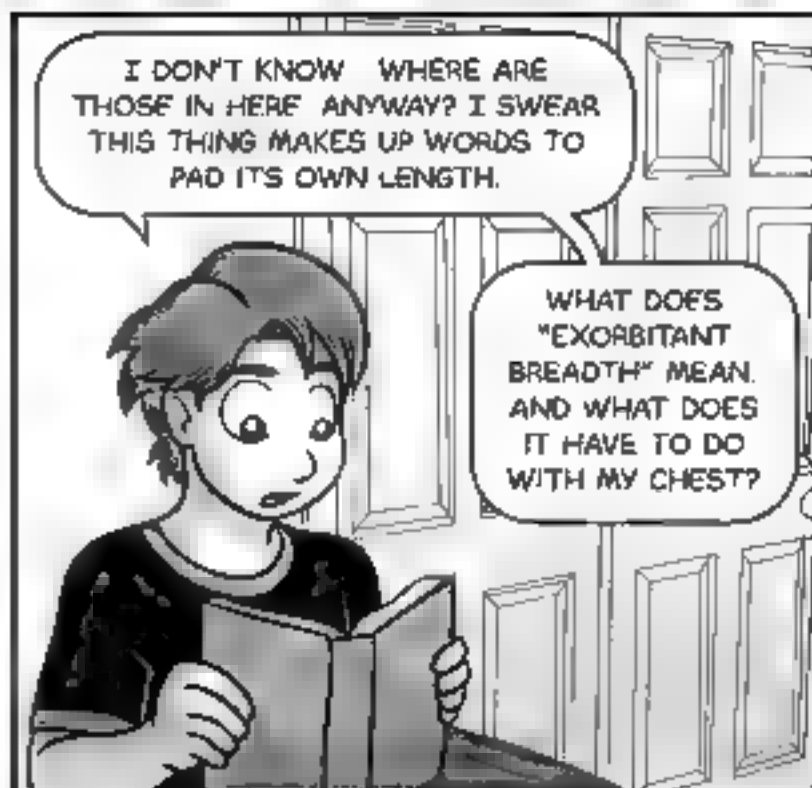
GRACE'S THEORY OF REFLECTIVE SEXY THOUGHTS HAS BEEN DISPROVEN.

OF COURSE IT HAS I COULD SEND YOU ON A GUILT TRIP JUST BY SAYING YOU SHOULD FEEL GUILTY



IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD FEEL GUILTY ABOUT?

NO, YOU JACKASS. WHY DON'T YOU JUST POSE AS YOUR SECRET IDENTITIES?



I DON'T KNOW WHERE ARE THOSE IN HERE ANYWAY? I SWEAR THIS THING MAKES UP WORDS TO PAD ITS OWN LENGTH.

WHAT DOES "EXORBITANT BREADTH" MEAN. AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH MY CHEST?



THE FORMS ARE *SOMEWHERE* IN THERE BUT YOU'VE BASICALLY GOT A MILD MANNERED ALTER EGO AN ANGSTY ALTER EGO, AND A PARTY ANIMAL SOCIALITE ALTER EGO



SO. A BORING CLICHÉ. AN ANNOYING CLICHÉ. AND AN ATTENTION WHORE CLICHÉ

YEAH. BUT IF I READ IT CORRECTLY THE MIDDLE ONE'S GOTH.



THE WORLD'S COLD BUT THIS FORM IS HOT



DUDE! THAT'S YOUR
ANGSTY FORM?

I KNOW!



GIVEN OUR RELATION. I
WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS
"DISTURBINGLY HOT"

IT'S FUNNY . YOU
DON'T SOUND ANGSTY

YOU SHOULD'VE
SEEN THE OUTFIT
I STARTED WITH.



OH. THIS ISN'T REALLY THE
"SECRET IDENTITY" FORM. I
SAW WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE
AND THEN MORPHED AGAIN. I
REALLY DON'T WANT SUPER-
NATURALLY ANGSTY ME'S
DREAMS.



AW! YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO SLEEP BEFORE SHOWING
ME YOUR MILD MANNERED
FORM ARE YOU?



I'LL SHOW YOU THAT
TOMORROW I DON'T WANT
TO MORPH MY BRAIN AGAIN
TONIGHT

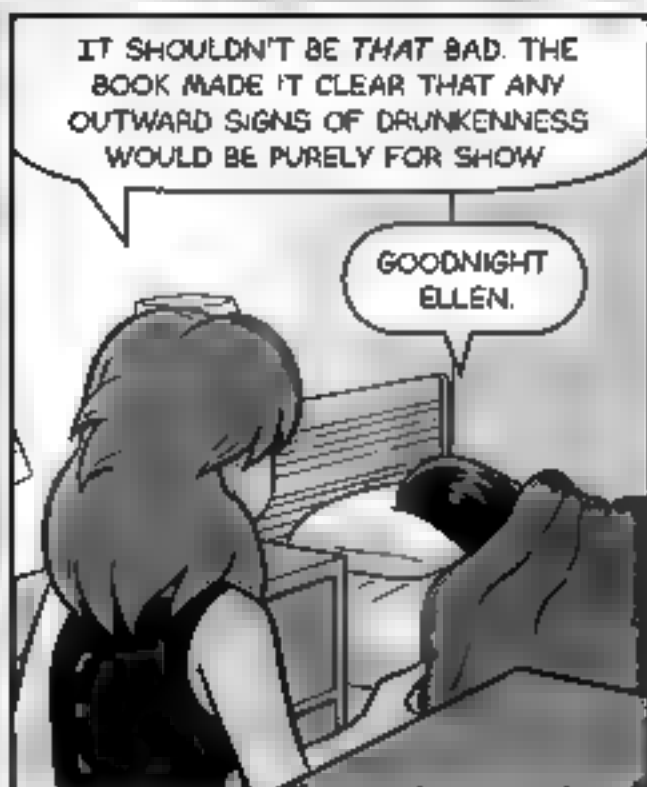


AWW! BUT DON'T YOU
WANT TO SEE WHAT
THE PARTY ANIMAL
FORM IS LIKE?



THAT FORM DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA
ON A SCHOOL NIGHT

OR
EVER



IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT BAD. THE
BOOK MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY
OUTWARD SIGNS OF DRUNKENNESS
WOULD BE PURELY FOR SHOW

GOODNIGHT
ELLEN.

SO BASICALLY THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN TRADITIONAL CORSETS
AND THE MODERN FAUX CORSETS
IS THE ABSENCE OF EVIL.

LOOK! THERE HE IS!



JUSTIN TOLKIBERRY!



EXCUSE ME?



EEP!

NOTHING!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
STOOD UP TO
THAT FIRE
MONSTER!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
HE KICKED IT ALL
THE WAY INTO
THE RIVER!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE'S
GAY!



NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING
WRONG WITH THAT I'M JUST UPSET
THAT I CAN'T ASK HIM OUT



DON'T YOU ALREADY
HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

OF COURSE I
DO HE'S RIGHT
HERE.

I AM LESS THAN
HAPPY RIGHT NOW







EXCUSE ME, BUT
JUST WHO THE HELL
ARE YOU?

EEP! I'M
SORRY!



WAIT A
MINUTE--
RHODA?

Y-YES.

I THOUGHT YOU
MOVED OR SOME-
THING.



I'VE BEEN AROUND. I JUST
WENT BACK TO MY OLD LOOK
AFTER THAT NEWS REPORT
MADE EVERYONE CRAZY!

Coverage Of Incident

as leak and invasion by nut case



SO WHAT WAS THAT
CREEPY GIRL LIKE?

THE NEWS
SHOWED
EVERYTHING
I--

I BET HER CHALLENGE
RATING'S AT LEAST A FIVE.



HEY, YOU!
WAS THAT
CREEPY GIRL A
SPACE ALIEN?

I
DON'T--

JUST TELL THIS
RAT BASTARD
THOSE PIGTAILS
WERE ANTENNAS!



RHODA? HI! HOW OLD ARE
YOU? I REPRESENT A GENTLEMEN'S
MAGAZINE, AND--BWOOF!

THWOCK!

EVERY TIME I TRY TO CONVINCE MYSELF PEOPLE AREN'T STUPID... DID DIANE REALLY PUNCH A GUY?

YEAH.

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T APPROVE OF THAT...

SO YOU CHANGED YOUR LOOK SO DUMB STRANGERS WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

DIANE THINKS I SHOULDN'T HIDE, BUT I JUST WANT THEM TO LEAVE ME ALONE.

I'M... NOT SURE IF I AGREE OR NOT. SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY INTO THIS STUFF ARE NUTS.

IT'S MOSTLY BEEN GUYS WHO ARE BIGGER THAN ME. I GET NERVOUS WHEN I'M ALONE WITH BIG PEOPLE.

YOU SEEM OKAY WITH ME.

YOU'RE GIANT, BUT YOU'RE ALSO NANASE'S FRIEND. NANASE WOULDN'T BE FRIENDS WITH A BAD GUY.

NO, I GUESS SHE WOULDN'T... GIANT, HUH? I'M NOT THAT TALL.

YOU ARE TO ME... BUT I MIGHT HAVE A DISTORTED PERCEPTION OF SCALE.

I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

